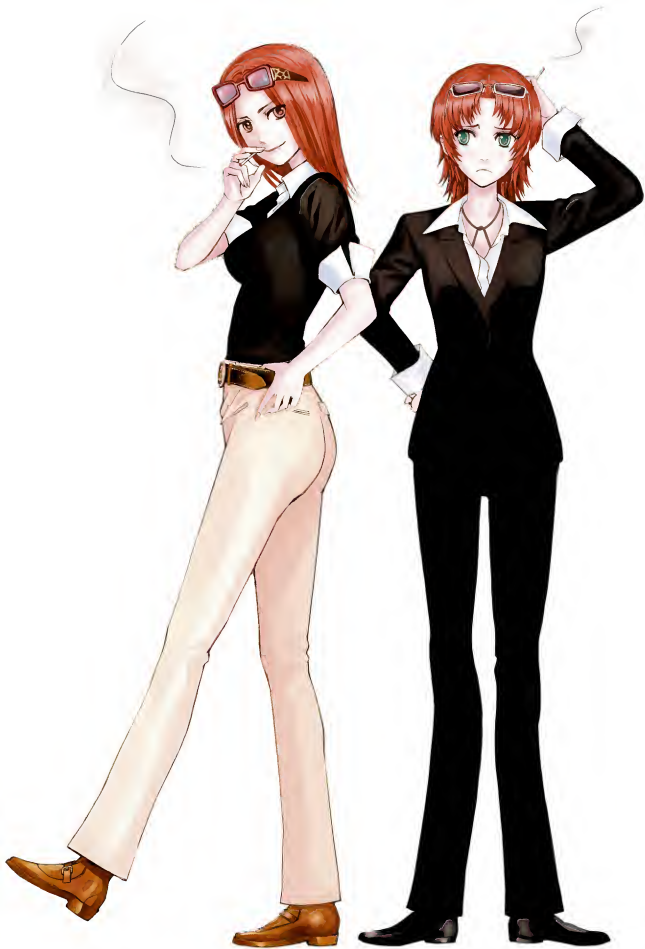


DIGITAL EDITION

GUNSLINGER GIRL

STORY & ART BY
YU AIDA

Vol. 8



SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

GUNSLINGER GIRL

VOLUME 8

story and art by YU AIDA

TRANSLATION
Adrienne Beck

ADAPTATION
Janet Houck

RETOUCH AND LETTERING
Roland Amago

LAYOUT
Bambi Eloriaga-Amago

COVER DESIGN
Nicky Lim

COPY EDITOR
Shanti Whitesides

EDITOR
Adam Arnold

PUBLISHER
Jason DeAngelis

GUNSLINGER GIRL VOLUME 8

Copyright © 2007 Yu Aida

First published in 2007 by ASCII MEDIA WORKS, Tokyo, Japan.

English translation rights arranged with ASCII MEDIA WORKS.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form without written permission from the copyright holders. This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

Seven Seas books may be purchased in bulk for promotional, educational, or business use. Please contact your local bookseller or the Macmillan Corporate and Premium Sales Department at 1-800-221-7945, extension 5442, or by e-mail at MacmillanSpecialMarkets@macmillan.com.

Seven Seas and the Seven Seas logo are trademarks of Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC. All rights reserved.

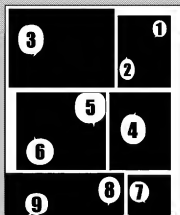
Ebook Edition: July 2017

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

FOLLOW US ONLINE: www.gomanga.com

READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from *right to left*, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but it's the way manga is read.



C H A R A C T E R S

登場人物紹介



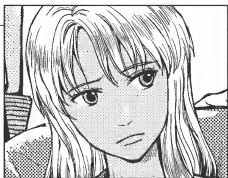
PETRUSHKA

The first of the new, second generation cyborgs. In her life before the Agency, she was a promising young ballerina with the Bolshoi Ballet. However, osteosarcoma in her leg ended her career, and she attempted suicide. Her handler is Alessandro.



ALESSANDRO

A new handler transferred from the Agency's Public Safety division over to Section 2. Prior to his transfer, his missions centered around infiltrating Padania terrorist groups.



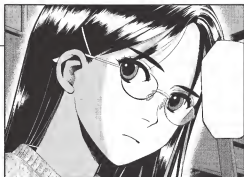
TRIELA

Smart and responsible, she is an "older sister" figure for the other cyborgs. Her handler is Hilshire.



HILSHIRE

German. Former detective with Europol. He tries very hard to be kind to Triela, but has difficulty figuring out what kind of distance there should be in their relationship.



CLAES

Triela's roommate. When her handler Raballo was killed, she became the Agency's "guinea pig" cyborg. All cyborg developments are first tested on her.



HENRIETTA

The only survivor of a slaughtered family of six. Thanks to her "conditioning" when she was converted into a cyborg, she is blindly in love with her handler, Jose.



JOSE

Ex-military. Generally, he is very kind to Henrietta, but he is beginning to find himself disturbed at how much he unconsciously imposes his late sister's image onto her.



RICO

Former quadriplegic. Innocent and cheerful, even the most common everyday things bring her much joy. Her handler is Jean.



JEAN

Jose's older brother. Very serious-minded and business-like. He is the cyborg handlers' leader and field commander for Section 2 operations.

ANGELICA

The first prototype cyborg. She was the first to start displaying side effects to the cyborg conversion process, and has an acute dependency on the "drug" used. Her handler is Marco.



MARCO

Ex-military special forces. When he was discharged due to an injury, he took up a job with the Agency. He has trouble dealing with feelings of helplessness and frustration as he watches Angelica's condition deteriorate day by day.



ROBERTA GUELLFI

The Roman prosecutor newly assigned to the "Croce Incident" case. Padania terrorists have announced their intention to assassinate her.



RACHELLE BELLEUT

Europol mortician. Along with Hilshire, she investigated a child slavery ring in Amsterdam, and was killed in the process.



BELISARIO

Agency technician. He is in charge of the cyborg "conditioning" process.



PRISCILLA

Section 2 agent. Specializes in intel and data analysis.



OLGA

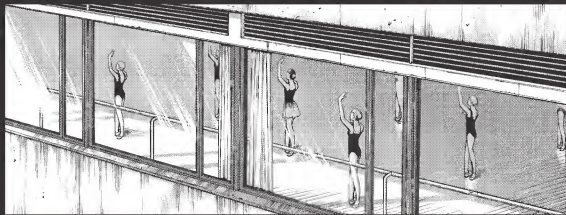
Section 2 agent. Russian.



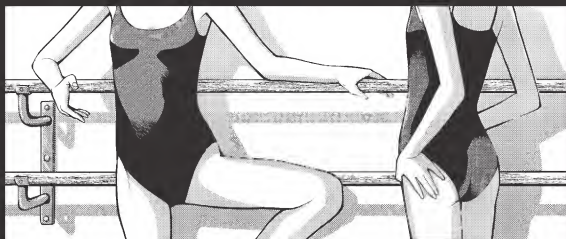
LORENZO

Section 2 Chief. Formerly of the Ministry of State.



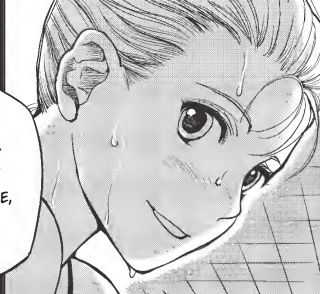


MOSCOW - THE BOLSHOI BALLET ACADEMY





I'M NOT
TALKING
ABOUT
TECHNIQUE,
HERE.



I'M
TALKING
ABOUT
ACTING.
HOW DO
YOU DO
IT SO
WELL?

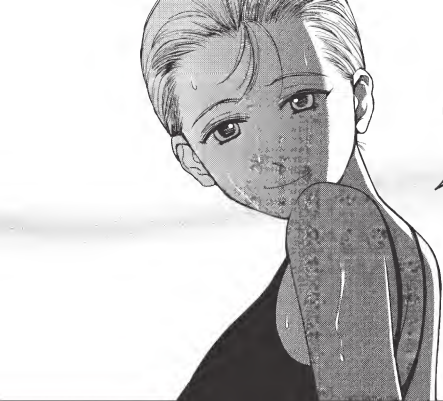


BUT YOU'RE
SO MUCH
TALLER AND
MORE
ELEGANT
THAN I AM,
NATASHA.
YOURS IS
DEFINITELY
STRONGER.



BUT WHEN
YOU ARE
DANCING AS
ODILE,
IT'S LIKE YOU'RE
A DIFFERENT
PERSON OUT
THERE.

YOU ARE
USUALLY
SO QUIET
AND
SHY...



YEAH,
THAT'S ONE
OF THE
THINGS I LOVE
ABOUT BALLET.
YOU CAN
BECOME A
COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT
PERSON ON
STAGE.



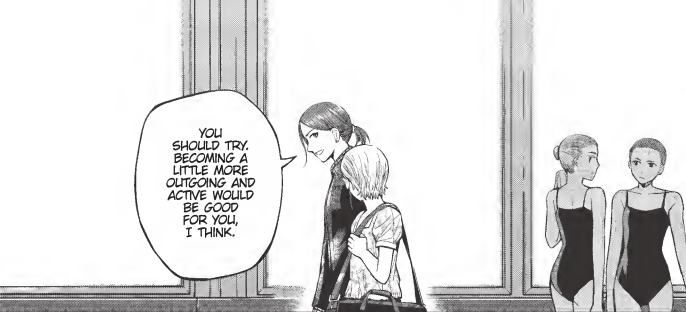
DO YOU
THINK YOU'D
WANT TO
REALLY BE
LIKE HER
SOMEDAY?

MAYBE
SOMEDAY,
IF I CAN.



I THINK
THE BLACK
SWAN IS
ONE OF MY
FAVORITES.

SHE'S SO
STRONG, SO
SEDUCTIVE...
TOTALLY
DIFFERENT
FROM THE
REAL ME.

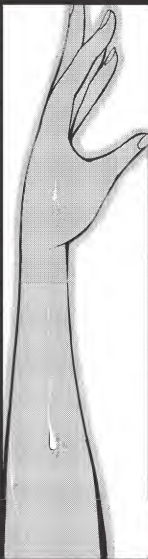


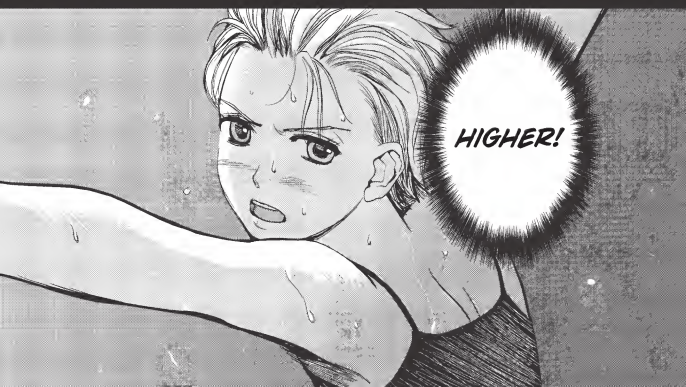
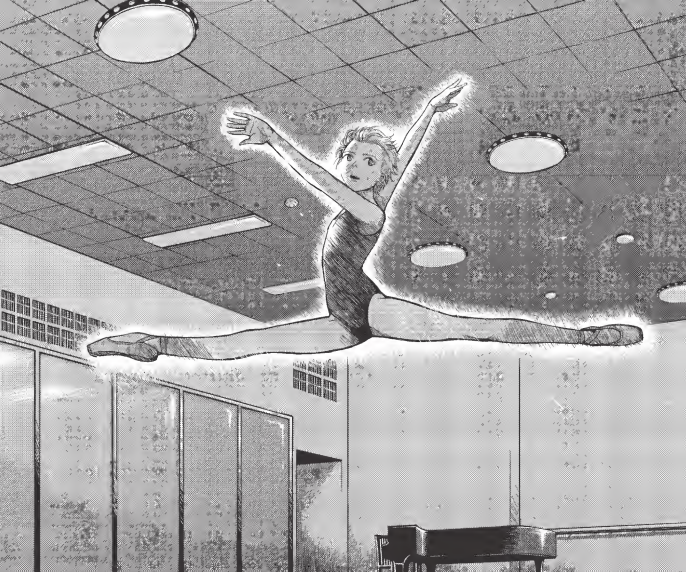
YOU
SHOULD TRY.
BECOMING A
LITTLE MORE
OUTGOING AND
ACTIVE WOULD
BE GOOD
FOR YOU,
I THINK.



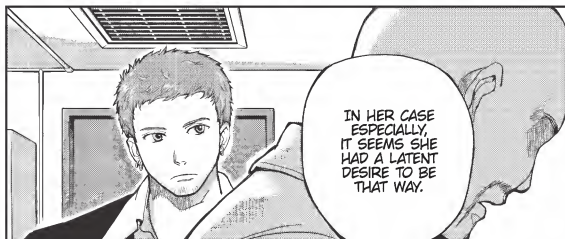
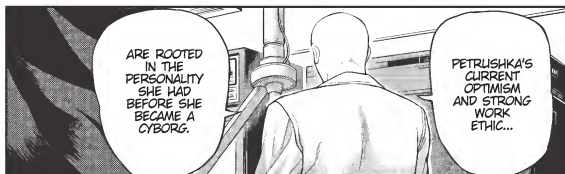
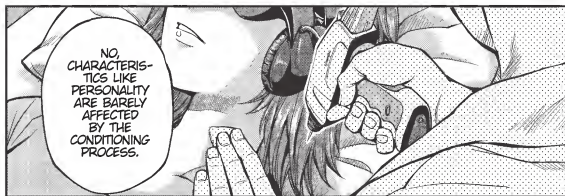
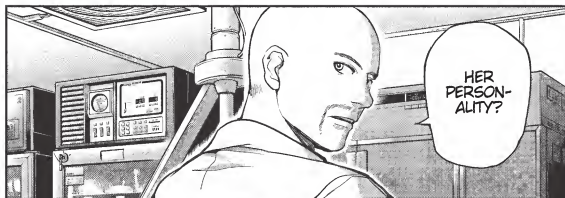
BESIDES,
I BET
HANGING OUT
WITH GUYS
MORE OFTEN
WILL HELP
BROADEN
YOUR ACTING
SKILLS!

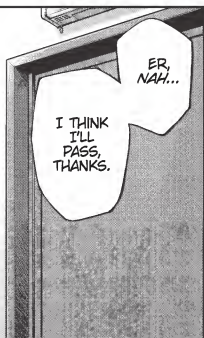
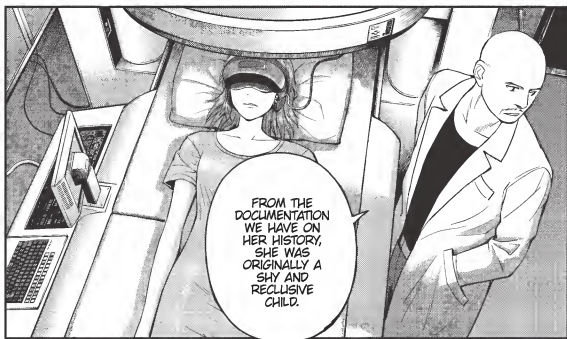
AH
HA
HA
HA!

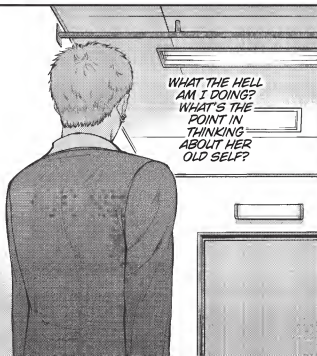


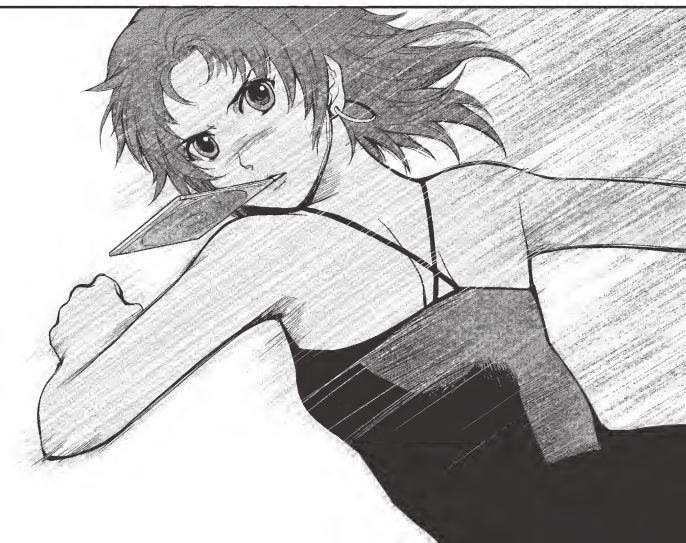


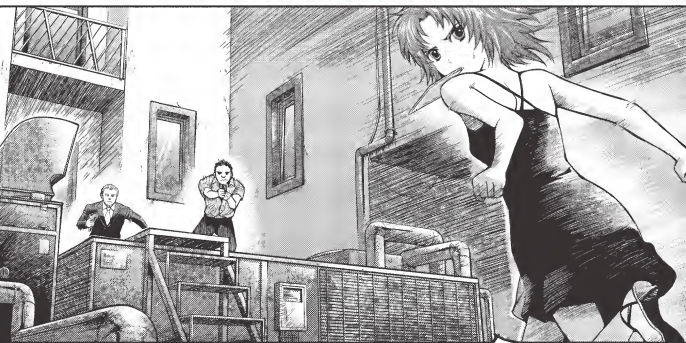
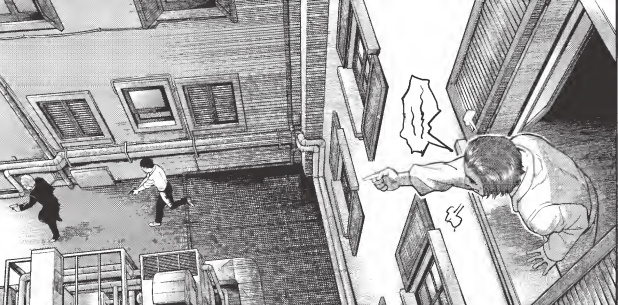
HIGHER!







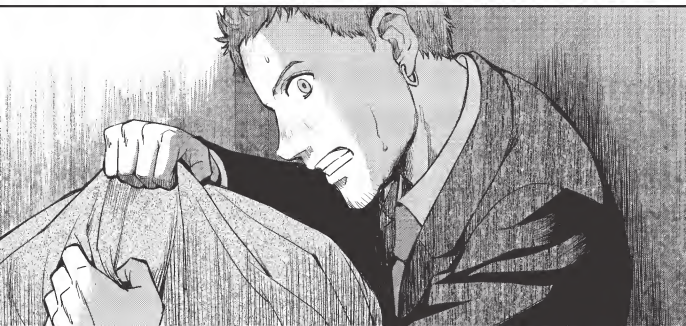
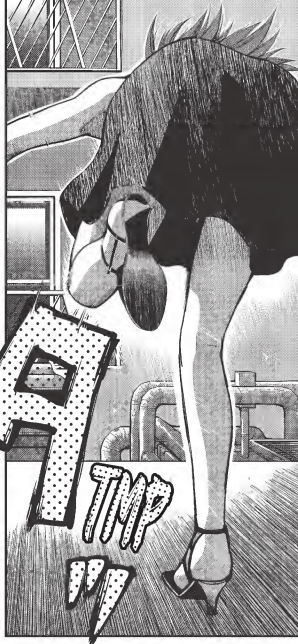


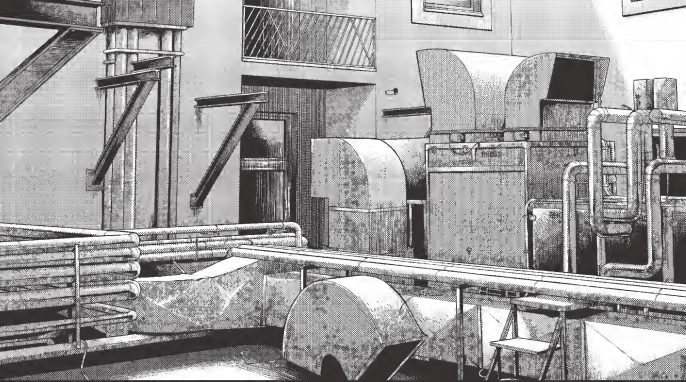
















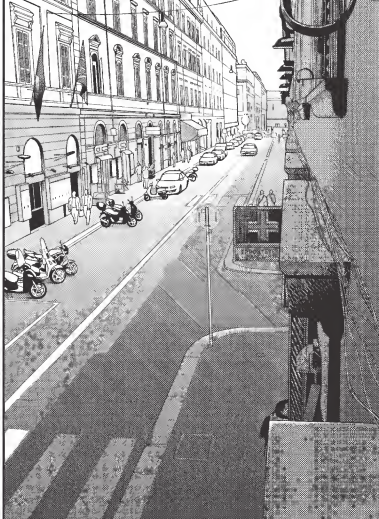
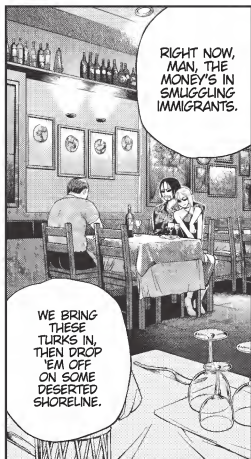
GOD...

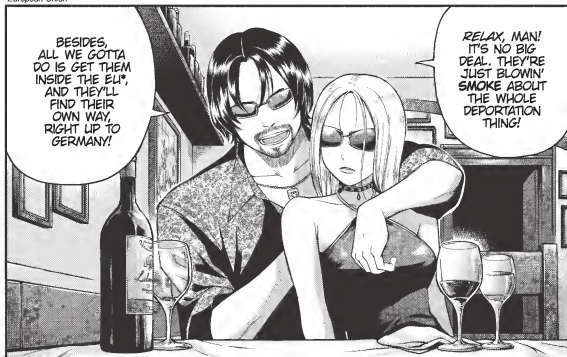
IT'S SO
HARD TO
DECIDE IF
SHE'S
INCREDIBLE,
OR JUST AN
INCREDIBLE
IDIOT!



Y'KNOW...
YOU'RE
PRETTY
INTERESTING.

?





BESIDES,
ALL WE GOTTA
DO IS GET THEM
INSIDE THE EU*,
AND THEY'LL
FIND THEIR
OWN WAY,
RIGHT UP TO
GERMANY!

RELAX, MAN!
IT'S NO BIG
DEAL. THEY'RE
JUST BLOWIN'
SMOKE ABOUT
THE WHOLE
DEPORTATION
THING!

*Tirana is the capital city of Albania.



NOTHING IN
PARTICULAR
TODAY, NO.

ANYWAYS,
YOU GOT
ANY GOOD
INFO FOR ME,
SIGNORE
DETECTIVE?



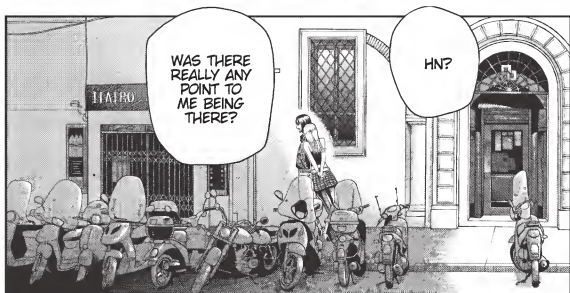
PASSAGE
FROM TIRANA*
TO OUR
SHORES IS
TWO THOUSAND
EUROS A HEAD.
NOT BAD,
EH?

GREAT,
MAN!
THANKS!

I'LL GET
IN TOUCH
WITH YOU IF
ANYTHING
DOES
COME UP,
THOUGH.



CHAPTER 39: LADY ROSSO (1)





THAT
MAKES THEM
CONFIDENT
THAT THEY'VE
GOT THE
UPPER HAND
ON HIM.

WE WANT
TO GIVE
PEOPLE THE
IMPRESSION
THAT
"NICCOLO" IS
IRRESPONSIBLE
AND LAZY...



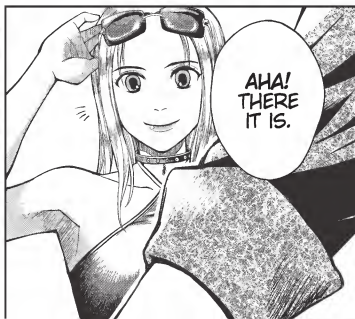
NICCOLO
LIKES
THESE,
YEAH.

IS THAT
SOMETHING
YOU LIKE,
SIGNORIO
SANDRO?

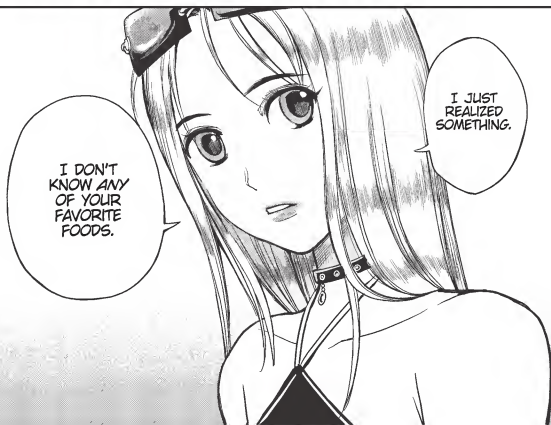
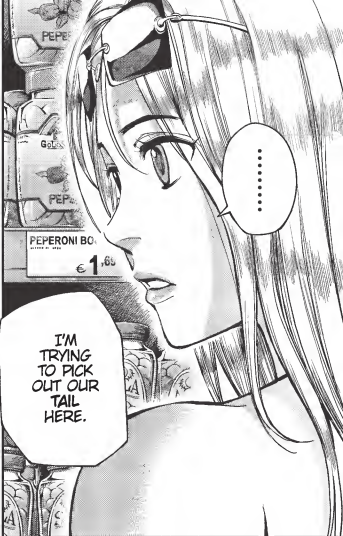


OH,
I SEE
NOW!

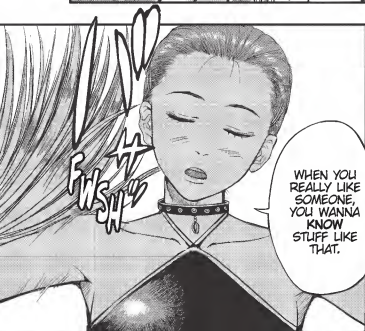
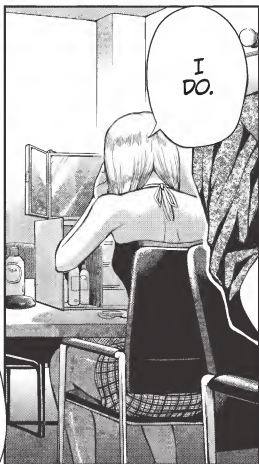
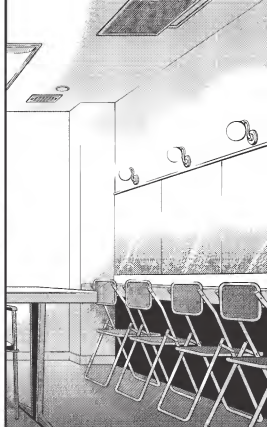
AND
THAT'S WHY
THEY'LL
TRADE
INFORMATION
WITH HIM.



AHA!
THERE
IT IS.

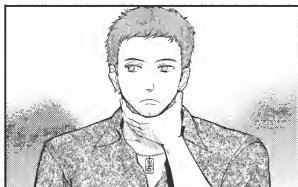


I JUST
REALIZED
SOMETHING.





I HATE
REDHEADS.



ALL
RIGHT,
I'LL LET
YOU
KNOW
ONE
THING.

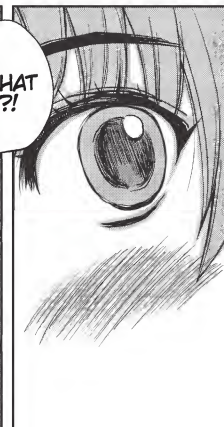


NO.
JEEZ...

I MEANT
REDHEADS
IN
GENERAL.



ARE YOU
TRYING
TO SAY
YOU
HATE
ME?!



WHAT
?!



I LIKE MY
HAIR THE
WAY IT IS
JUST FINE,
THANK
YOU!



I WAS
JUST
MAKING A
SUGGES-
TION.

ALL RIGHT!
ALL RIGHT!
YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
DYE YOUR
HAIR.



NO,
I AM NOT
GOING TO
DYE MY
HAIR!

WHY NOT?
YOU LOOKED
PRETTY
GOOD AS A
BLONDE
THERE,
Y'KNOW.

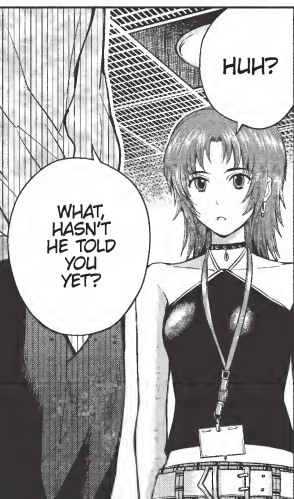
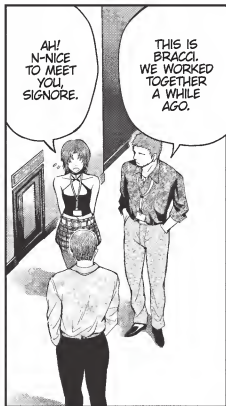


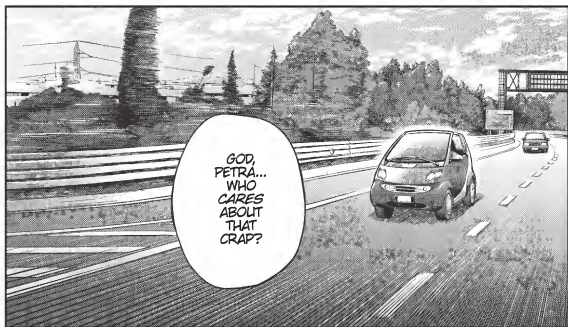
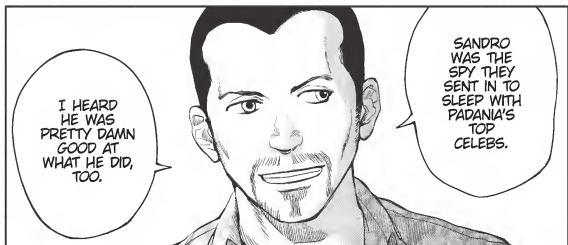
IT'S BEEN
FOREVER.
HOW'RE
YOU
DOIN'?

HEY,
BRACCI!
WHAT'S
UP?

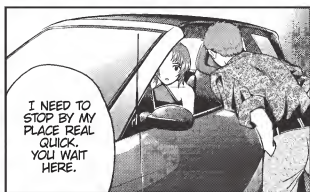


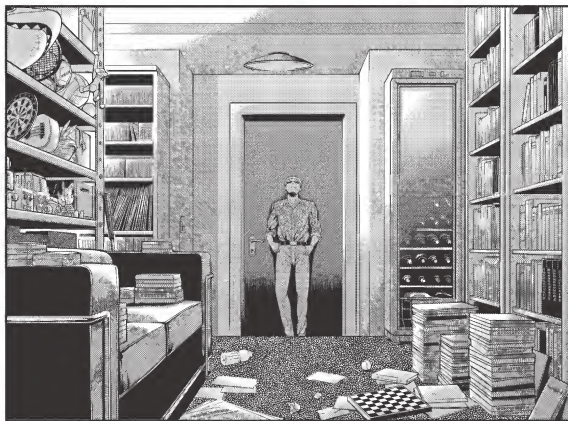
ALES-
SANDRO!

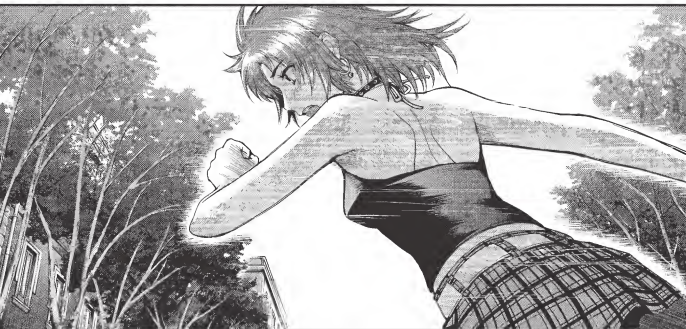






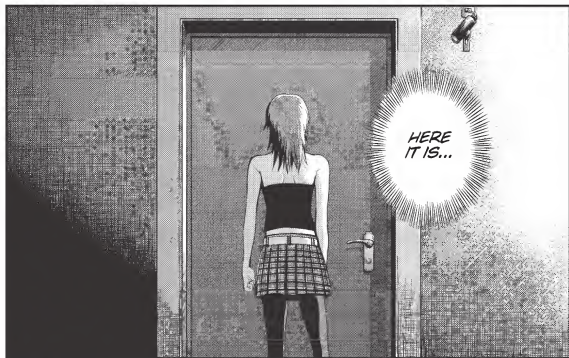


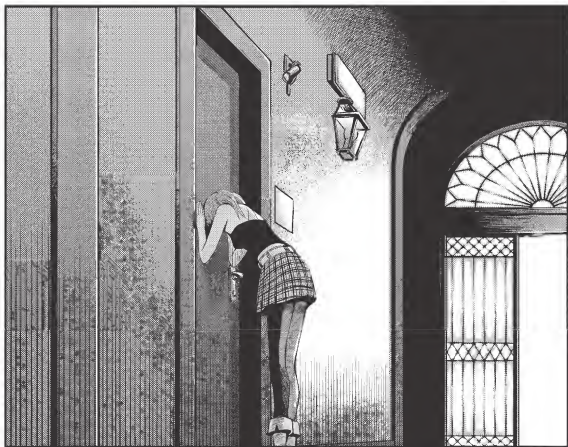
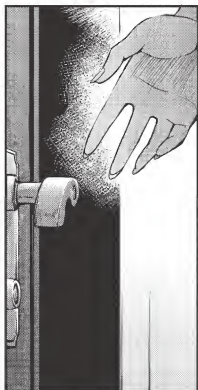




HIS
NAME'S
NOT ON
HERE!!

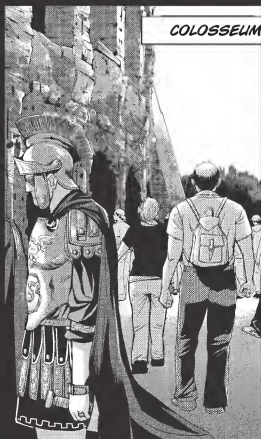
HUH...?
HEY!





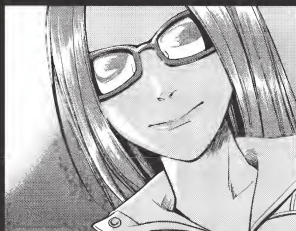
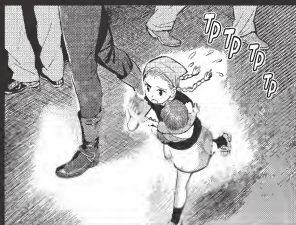
ROME -
HISTORICAL DISTRICT

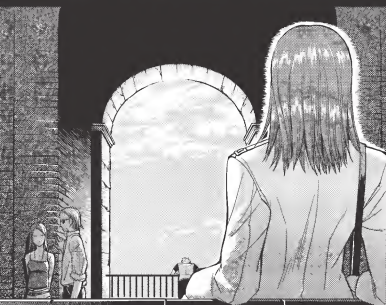
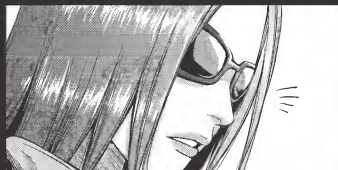
COLOSSEUM

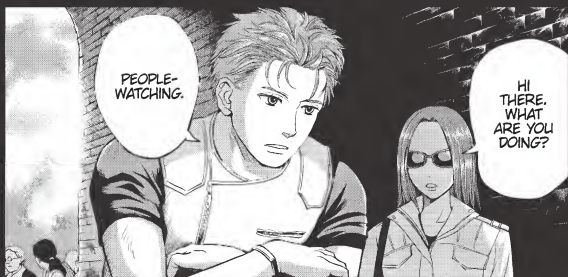


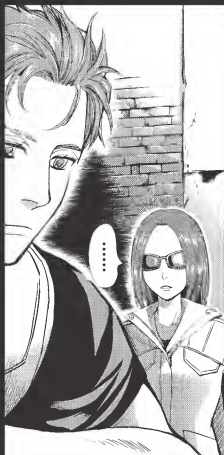
CHAPTER 40: LADY ROSSO (2)













I'D SAY THE
OLDER ONE IS
PROBABLY
THE RANKING
OFFICER,
AND THE
YOUNGER GUY
IS HIS
SUBORDINATE.

THEY DON'T
LOOK LIKE A
GAY COUPLE,
AND THEY
CERTAINLY
AREN'T
FATHER AND
SON.

FIRST OFF,
THIS ISN'T
THE KIND OF
PLACE YOU'D
FIND TWO
GROWN MEN
HANGING OUT
TOGETHER.



SO,
YOU'RE
A COP,
TOO?

.....



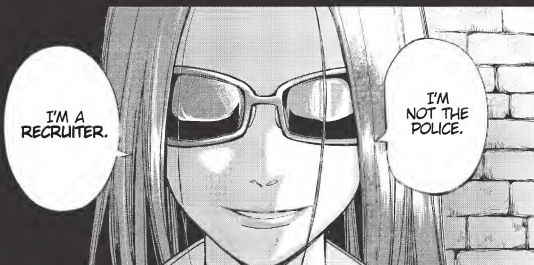
THEY'VE
GOT BETTER
POSTURE
THAN YOUR
AVERAGE,
UNTRAINED
PERSON.

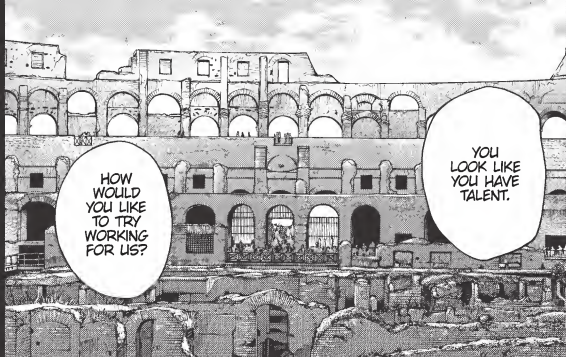
THEN THERE'S
THEIR CLOTHES.
IT'S SMAACK IN THE
MIDDLE OF SUMMER,
BUT THEY'VE GOT
LONG SLEEVES AND
COATS. PROBABLY
TO HIDE STUFF
UNDERNEATH,
I BET.



WHAT
MAKES
YOU
THINK
THAT?

A COAT IN
SUMMER,
AND BETTER
POSTURE
THAN AN
UNTRAINED
CIVILIAN.





HOW
WOULD
YOU LIKE
TO TRY
WORKING
FOR US?

YOU
LOOK LIKE
YOU HAVE
TALENT.



NOT
ONLY THAT,
YOU SHOW
UP OUT OF
NOWHERE
AND DEMAND
THAT I
TRUST YOU.

YOU'RE
NOT
MAKING
A GOOD
CASE FOR
YOURSELF.



THAT'S
PRETTY
SUSPICIOUS
RIGHT
THERE,
LADY.

AND
YOU'RE
NOT EVEN
GONNA
TELL ME
WHAT THAT
"WORK"
IS?



IT'S A
SECRET.

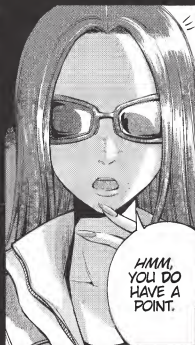
WELL?
WILL
YOU,
OR
NOT?



YOU
SHOWED
ME WHAT
YOU CAN DO.
LET ME
SHOW YOU
WHAT I
CAN DO.



ALL
RIGHT,
THEN.



HMM,
YOU DO
HAVE A
POINT.

*Trade School = A school that teaches a specific job or career



WELL,
ALESSANDRO,
YOU'RE TWENTY
YEARS OLD.
YOU DROPPED
OUT OF TRADE
SCHOOL*
AND ARE
CURRENTLY
UNEMPLOYED.

!

YOU WERE
BORN AND
RAISED IN ROME,
ALTHOUGH
YOU HAVE
GRANDPARENTS
FROM PUGLIA.



FIRST,
TELL ME
YOUR
FULL
NAME.



ALESSANDRO
RICCI...



WHA
...?!

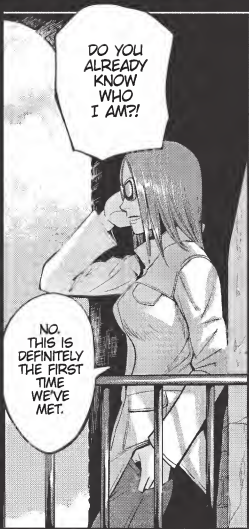


I HAVE
A TALENT
FOR
IT TOO,
YOU
KNOW...

THEN
HOW
DID YOU
KNOW
ALL
THAT?!



PEOPLE-
WATCHING.



DO YOU
ALREADY
KNOW
WHO
I AM?!

NO.
THIS IS
DEFINITELY
THE FIRST
TIME
WE'VE
MET.



SO,
UH, HOW
SURE
WERE
YOU?

WERE YOU
TOTALLY
CERTAIN
YOU'D GOT
IT ALL
CORRECT?



HEY,
LADY...



NO.
ACTUALLY,
I WAS ONLY
ABOUT TWENTY,
MAYBE THIRTY
PERCENT SURE
THAT I HAD
IT ENTIRELY
CORRECT.



OH,
IT WAS
HARDLY
A
GAMBLE.

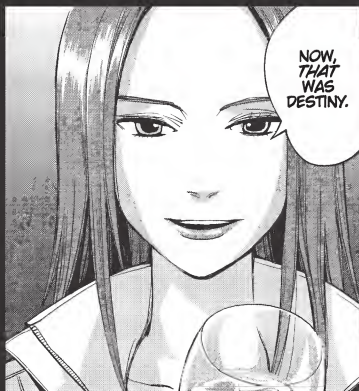


WHAT?!
DAMN,
THAT WAS
ONE
HELLUVA
GAMBLE...

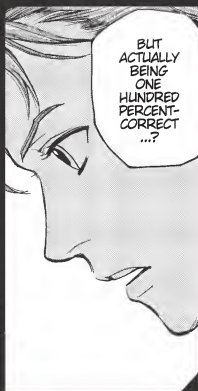


SO THE
ODDS
WERE VERY
MUCH IN
MY FAVOR.

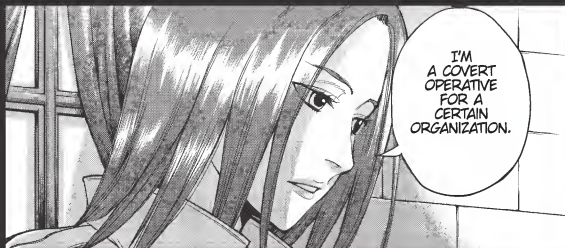
EVEN IF I
ONLY GOT
MOST OF IT
CORRECT,
YOU STILL
WOULD HAVE
BEEN
SHOCKED,
RIGHT?

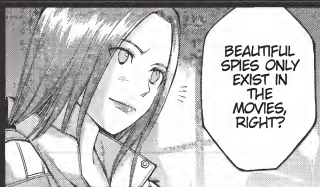
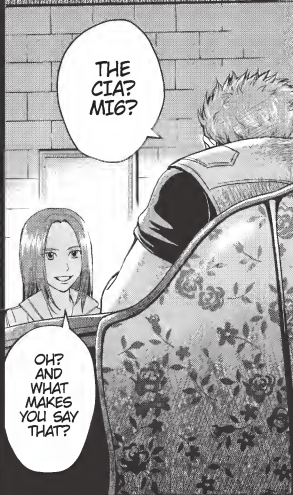


NOW,
THAT
WAS
DESTINY.



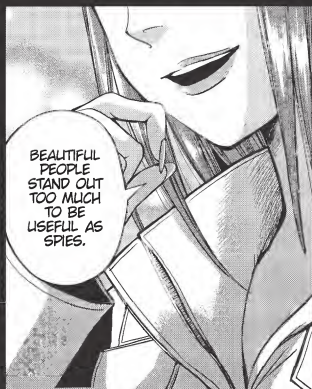
BUT
ACTUALLY
BEING
ONE
HUNDRED
PERCENT-
CORRECT
...?







I SHOULD
HAVE BEEN
BORN A
LITTLE BIT
PLAINER,
DON'T YOU
THINK?

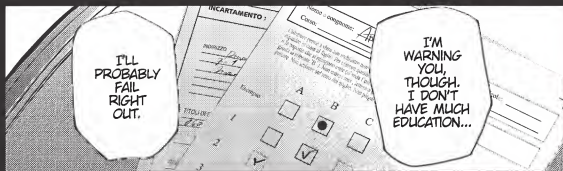


BEAUTIFUL
PEOPLE
STAND OUT
TOO MUCH
TO BE
USEFUL AS
SPIES.



HERE.
I'M
DONE.

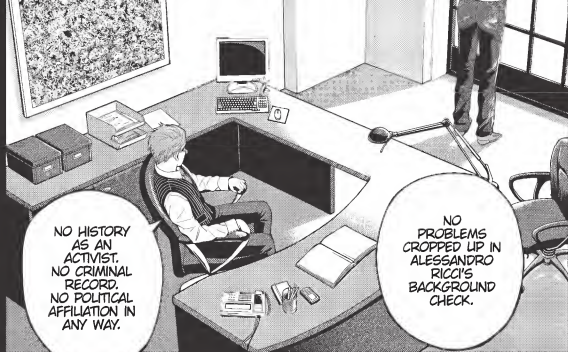
OH,
HELL
NO...



I'LL
PROBABLY
FAIL
RIGHT
OUT.

I'M
WARNING
YOU,
THOUGH.
I DON'T
HAVE MUCH
EDUCATION...





NO HISTORY
AS AN
ACTIVIST.
NO CRIMINAL
RECORD.
NO POLITICAL
AFFILIATION IN
ANY WAY.

NO
PROBLEMS
CROPPED UP IN
ALESSANDRO
RICCI'S
BACKGROUND
CHECK.



EXCELLENT.



HE'LL
BE A GOOD
FIT HERE
IN PUBLIC
SAFETY.
WE'LL TAKE
HIM.



ALSO,
THE APTITUDE
TEST PEGGED
HIM AS
"COVERT
OPERATIVE"
MATERIAL.



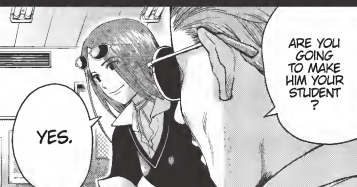
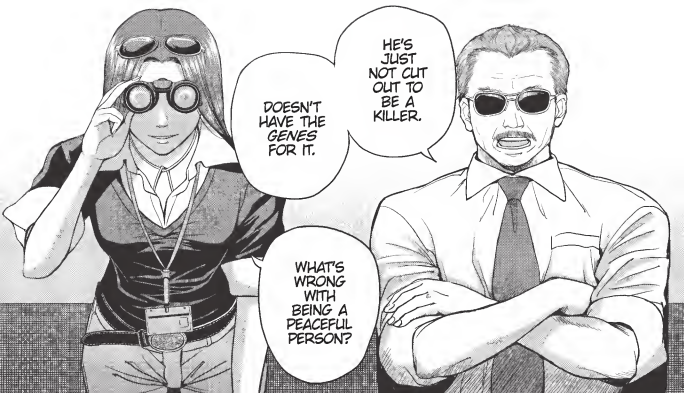
10 MONTHS LATER

CHAPTER 41: LADY ROSSO (3)



HE'S
ALMOST
AS BAD
AS YOU
WERE.

HOW IS
ALESSANDRO
DOING?



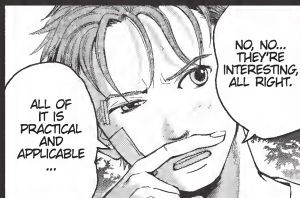


HMPH.
YOU
TOTALLY
FOOLED
ME.

I WAS
THINKING
YOU
WERE A
TEACHER
HERE...



YOU
LOOK LIKE
YOU'RE
DOING
WELL.



ALL OF
IT IS
PRACTICAL
AND
APPLICABLE
...

NO, NO...
THEY'RE
INTERESTING,
ALL RIGHT.



ALTHOUGH,
IT SEEMS
PHYSICAL
COMBAT ISN'T
A SPECIALTY
OF YOURS.



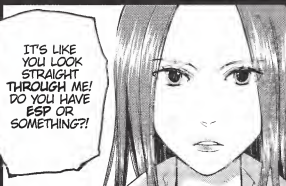
OH,
I WILL BE
TEACHING
YOU,
AFTER
YOU
GRADUATE.

ARE THE
TRAINING
CLASSES
HERE TOO
DULL FOR
YOU?



YOU
DO THIS
EVERY
TIME
YOU SEE
ME!

DAMMIT,
STOP
ALREADY!



IT'S LIKE
YOU LOOK
STRAIGHT
THROUGH ME!
DO YOU HAVE
ESP OR
SOMETHING?!



IT'S LEFT
YOU A
LITTLE
HESITANT
TO CAUSE
HARM TO
OTHERS,
I BET.

YOU MUST
HAVE BEEN
REALLY GOOD
AT EVADING
FIGHTS AND
SUCH WHEN
GROWING
UP...



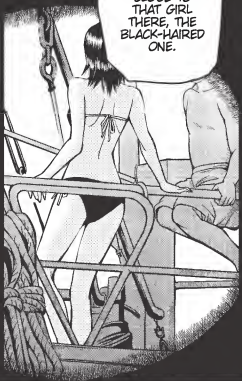
ANYWAY,
I'M LOOKING
FORWARD
TO THE
CHANCE
TO WORK
WITH YOU.

I'M
SORRY.

IT'S A
BAD
HABIT OF
MINE.

CAPRI ISLAND, CAMPANIA

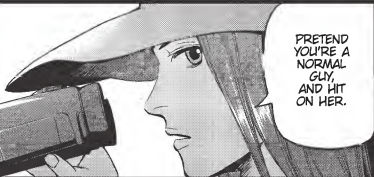


A black and white manga panel showing a woman with long dark hair, seen from behind, wearing a light-colored bikini. She is standing on a boat or a raised platform, looking out towards the water. A speech bubble is positioned above her.

YOUR
MISSION WILL
BE GETTING
CLOSE TO
THAT GIRL
THERE, THE
BLACK-HAIRED
ONE.

A black and white manga panel of a beach scene. In the foreground, a man with a black cap and a beard is lying on a lounge chair, facing away from the viewer. In the background, there are other people on the beach and a large beach umbrella.

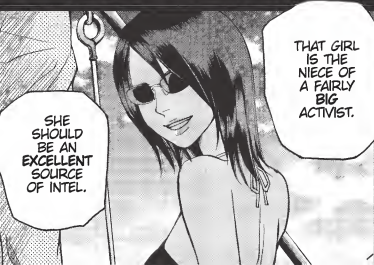
THEY ARE
PLANNING ON
VACATIONING
ON THIS
ISLAND FOR
THE NEXT
MONTH.

A black and white manga panel showing a close-up of a man's face in profile. He is wearing a wide-brimmed hat and looking towards the right. A speech bubble is next to him.

PRETEND
YOU'RE A
NORMAL
GUY,
AND HIT
ON HER.

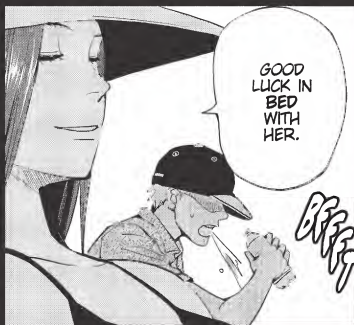
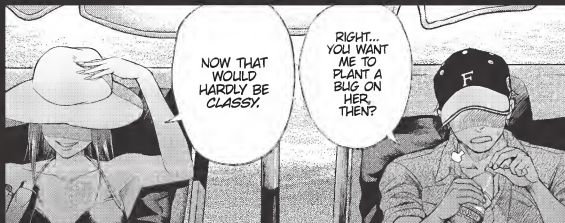
A black and white manga panel showing a close-up of a man's face. He is wearing a cap and looking directly at the viewer with a serious expression. A speech bubble is next to him.

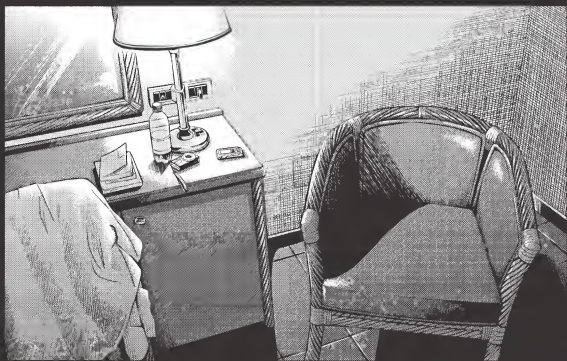
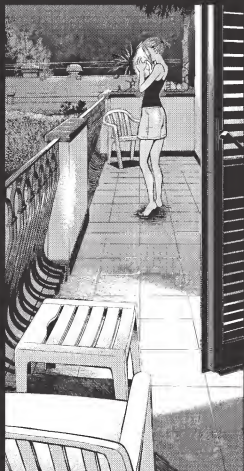
OKAY.
SO, GET
CLOSE...
HOW?

A black and white manga panel showing a woman with long dark hair and sunglasses. She is looking towards the right. A speech bubble is next to her.

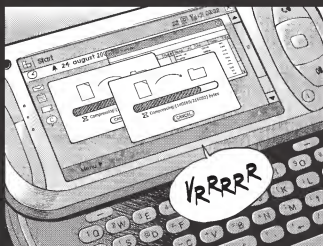
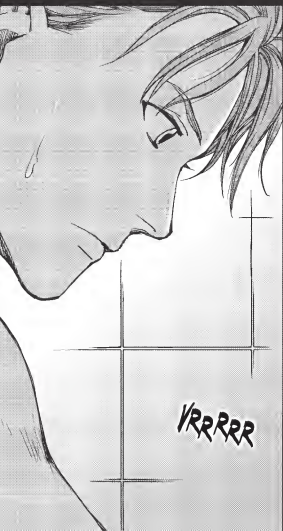
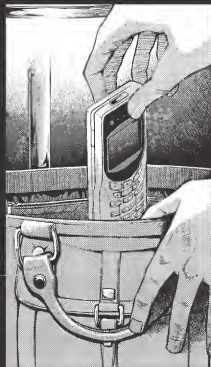
SHE
SHOULD
BE AN
EXCELLENT
SOURCE
OF INTEL.

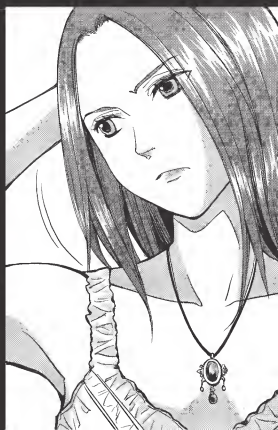
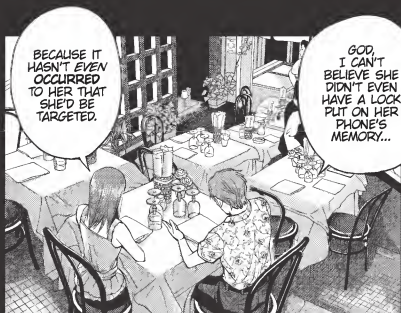
THAT GIRL
IS THE
NIECE OF
A FAIRLY
BIG
ACTIVIST.













EVENTS,
HAPPENINGS,
ANY OF IT
COULD BE
SOMETHING
WE CAN
USE.

CONTINUE
TRYSTING
WITH HER AND
USE IT AS A
CHANCE TO
DELVE INTO
WHAT'S GOING
ON AROUND
HER.



IT'S
JUST,
LM--

LIH,
WELL...

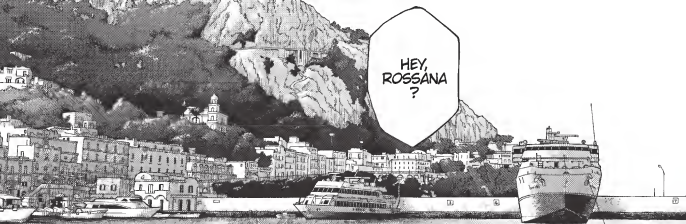


DON'T
WORRY.

IT WILL
ALL
START
GETTING
FUN
SOON.



DOESN'T
THAT SOUND
INTERESTING
TO YOU?



HEY,
ROSSANA
?



BECAUSE
I'M THE
ONLY ONE
WHO CAN.



WAS IT
BECAUSE
OF THE
HIGH
PAY?

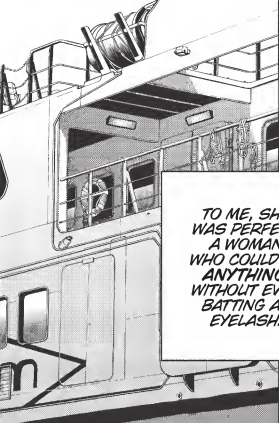
PATRIOTISM,
MAYBE?



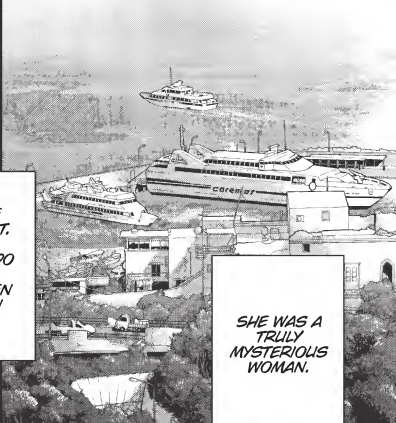
WHY'D
YOU
PICK
THIS
JOB?



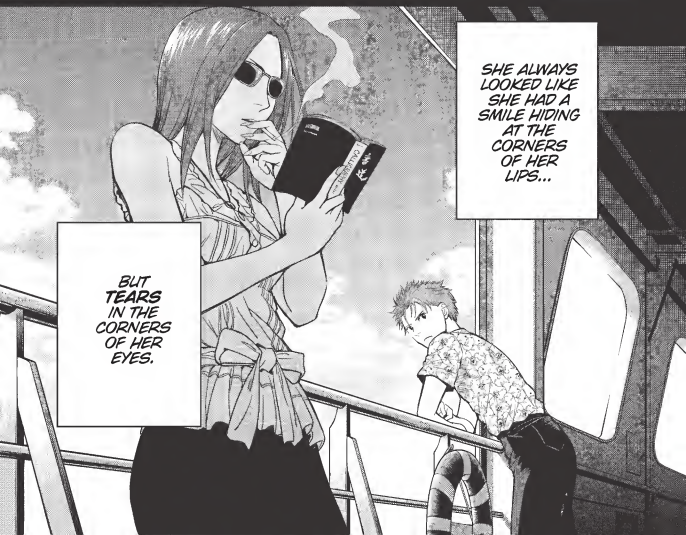
SO,
I HAVE
TO.



TO ME, SHE
WAS PERFECT.
A WOMAN
WHO COULD DO
ANYTHING,
WITHOUT EVEN
BATTLING AN
EYELASH.

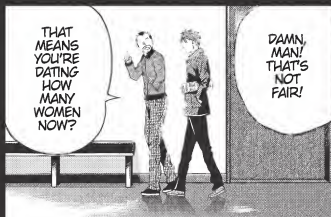


SHE WAS A
TRULY
MYSTERIOUS
WOMAN.



SHE ALWAYS
LOOKED LIKE
SHE HAD A
SMILE HIDING
AT THE
CORNERS
OF HER
LIPS...

BUT
TEARS
IN THE
CORNERS
OF HER
EYES.





OH,
THOSE
?

WHAT'S
WITH ALL
THE CELL
PHONES
SHE'S GOT
THERE?



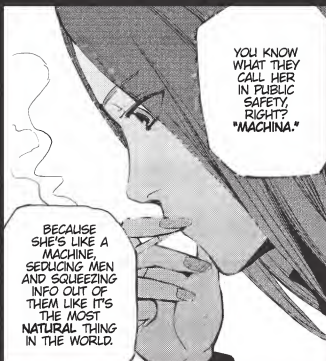
IT'S
PRETTY
TOUGH FOR
HER, JUST
KEEPING UP
WITH ALL
THE EMAILS
AND TEXTS
SHE GETS.

SHE HAS
A DIFFERENT
ONE FOR
EACH OF
HER
IDENTITIES.



WHOA.

NOW
HERE'S
SOMETHING
YOU DON'T
SEE EVERY
DAY.
ROSSANA'S
ACTUALLY
IN HER
OFFICE.



YOU KNOW
WHAT THEY
CALL HER
IN PUBLIC
SAFETY,
RIGHT?
"MACHINA."

BECAUSE
SHE'S LIKE A
MACHINE,
SEDUCING MEN
AND SQUEEZING
INFO OUT OF
THEM LIKE IT'S
THE MOST
NATURAL THING
IN THE WORLD.



YOU
SERIOUS?
DAMN...
GENIUSES
REALLY
ARE A CUT
ABOVE
THE REST,
HUH?



HELL
NO.

WHO'D
WANT TO
HANG OUT
WITH A
BORING
WOMAN
LIKE HER?



DON'T
YOU GO
TURNING
INTO
SOMEONE
LIKE HER,
OKAY?

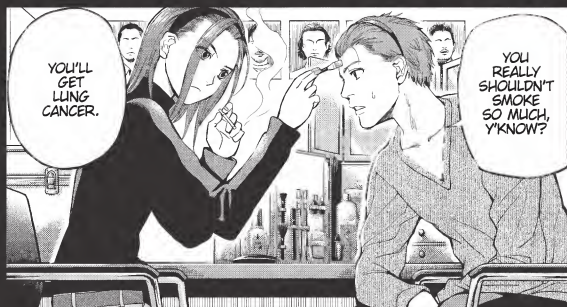


Y'KNOW,
I ALWAYS
SEE HER
HANGING
OUT
ALONE...

DOESN'T
SHE HAVE
ANY CO-
WORKERS
SHE'S
CLOSE TO?
FRIENDS TO
TALK TO?



HEY,
ROSSANA
?



YOU'LL
GET
LUNG
CANCER.

YOU
REALLY
SHOULDN'T
SMOKE
SO MUCH,
Y'KNOW?



WE CAN'T
RUN IF
WE DON'T
HAVE ANY
FUEL.



SORRY,
SANDRO.
NO CAN
DO.

IT'S JUST
LIKE WITH
THOSE
HIGH-END
SPORTS
CARS...



RIGHT.



ESPECIALLY
WHEN YOU
ARE TRYING
TO PASS
YOURSELF
OFF AS A
SOUTHERNER.



NOW,
LEARNING
HOW TO USE
FOUNDATION
PROPERLY
IS A KEY
SKILL.



I HAVE
NO CLUE
WHAT HE'S
TALKING
ABOUT!

I MEAN,
I ALWAYS
THINK IT'S
REALLY
INTERESTING
TALKING
TO YOU.

HOW
CAN HE
SAY
YOU'RE
DULL?!



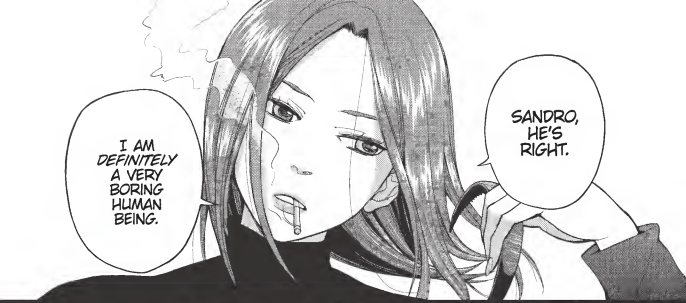
HEY,
UM...

I HEARD
SOMEONE
EARLIER
TODAY CALL
YOU A
"BORING"
PERSON...



REALLY,
NOW.
SO?

TINK
GLUNK



I AM
DEFINITELY
A VERY
BORING
HUMAN
BEING.

SANDRO,
HE'S
RIGHT.

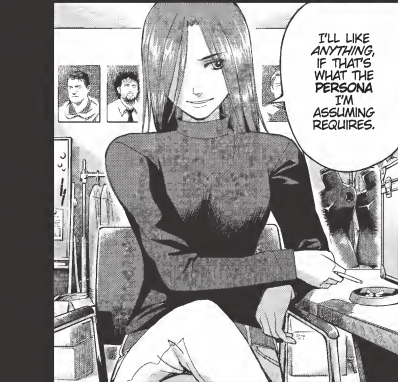


I LIKE BOTH
A.S. ROMA
AND
S.S. LAZIO.

I LIKE
SOUTHERNERS.
I LIKE
NORTHERNERS,
TOO.

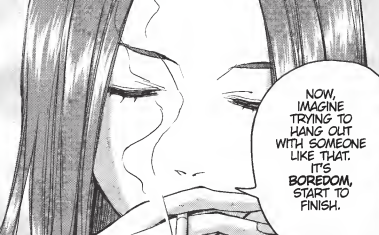


ANY
PERSON
WITH NO
LIKES OR
DISLIKES
WHATSOEVER
IS GOING TO
BE LIKE
THAT.



I'LL LIKE
ANYTHING,
IF THAT'S
WHAT THE
PERSONA
I'M
ASSUMING
REQUIRES.

PTAN
9.2

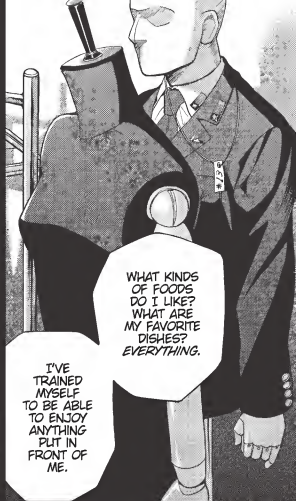


NOW,
IMAGINE
TRYING TO
HANG OUT
WITH SOMEONE
LIKE THAT.
IT'S
BOREDOM,
START TO
FINISH.



HELL,
HOW
CAN
YOU DO
THAT?

WHY DO
YOU DO
THAT TO
YOURSELF
...?



WHAT KINDS
OF FOODS
DO I LIKE?
WHAT ARE
MY FAVORITE
DISHES?
EVERYTHING.

I'VE
TRAINED
MYSELF
TO BE ABLE
TO ENJOY
ANYTHING
PUT IN
FRONT OF
ME.



GENIUSES
DON'T
CHOOSE
THEIR
JOBS.

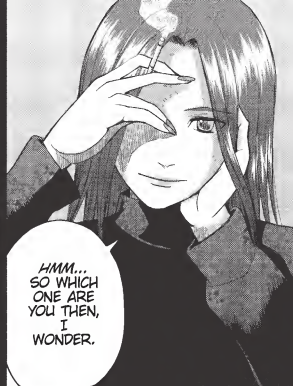
THEIR
JOBS
CHOOSE
THEM.



THAT'S
JUST
THE WAY
I AM,
I GUESS.



HELL
IF I
KNOW.



HMM...
SO WHICH
ONE ARE
YOU THEN,
I
WONDER.



IT'S
SOMETHING
YOU CAN
DO THAT
YOU FEEL
NO ONE
ELSE
CAN.

YOU
LOVE THIS
JOB,
RIGHT?



THAT
MAKES
YOU THE
SAME
AS ME.



WHETHER
HE
WANTED
TO OR
NOT.

ALL HE
COULD DO
WAS EAT
ROCKS...



DO YOU
KNOW THE
STORY
ABOUT
THE SAINT
WHO ATE
ROCKS?

NOPE.



Y'KNOW,
THE MORE I
THINK ON IT,
THE MORE
I'M SURE YOU
AND I ARE
DIFFERENT.

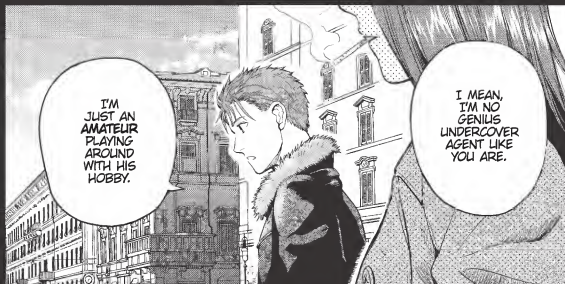


AND HE
HAD TO
HAVE BEEN
GIVEN THAT
POWER
FOR A
REASON.

IT WAS,
HE SAID,
BECAUSE HE
HAD THE
POWER TO
DO SO.



.....



I'M
JUST AN
AMATEUR
PLAYING
AROUND
WITH HIS
HOBBY.

I MEAN,
I'M NO
GENIUS
UNDERCOVER
AGENT LIKE
YOU ARE.



MAYBE
YOU JUST
HAVEN'T
REALLY
TRIED TO
UNDERSTAND
IT YET.



IF YOU'RE
THE SAINT,
I GUESS
THAT MAKES
ME SOME
RANDOM
NOVICE
DISCIPLE.

DON'T TRY
TALKING TO ME
ABOUT DUTY
OR DESTINY
OR ANY OF
THAT STUFF.
I'LL NEVER
REALLY
GET IT.



HUH
?

DO YOU
WANT
TO STOP
BY MY
PLACE....?

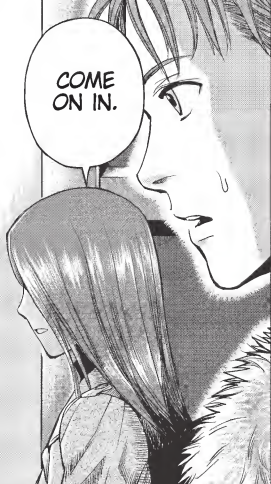


MY
APARTMENT.
DO YOU
WANT TO
SEE IT?



?

TRY NOT
TO BE TOO
SURPRISED,
OKAY?



COME
ON IN.



WHAT
THE
HELL...?



HAD TO,
REALLY,
IF I WAS GOING
TO HAVE THE
SKILL TO FULLY
BECOME OVER
ONE HUNDRED
DIFFERENT
PEOPLE.

I
WAS AN
AWFULLY
SHALLOW
PERSON,
AFTER
ALL.

I GOT THE
CHANCE TO
STUDY A LOT
OF THINGS
AFTER I
STARTED
THIS JOB.

UP
THIS SIDE UP

FRAGILE



SCUBA
DIVING,
SKIING,
AND
LOTS OF
OTHERS.

EVEN
SPORTS.



LANGUAGES,
LIKE
CHINESE
AND
SPANISH.

HISTORY.
LITERATURE.



AND I WAS
INTERESTED IN
EVERYTHING.
ALL OF IT
WAS FUN
FOR ME.

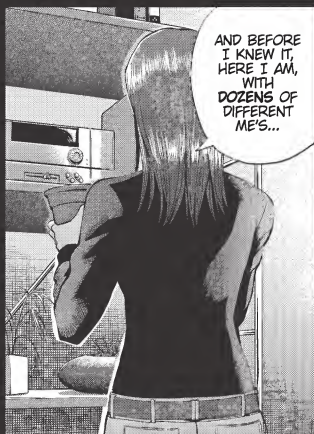
BUT IN
THE
END...



I HAD A
TALENT
FOR IT,
SEE.

BUT I
NEVER DEEPLY
PURSUED
ANY OF IT.
THREE DAYS
WAS ALL I
GENERALLY
NEEDED TO
PICK UP
ALMOST
ANYTHING.





AND BEFORE
I KNEW IT,
HERE I AM,
WITH
DOZENS OF
DIFFERENT
ME'S...



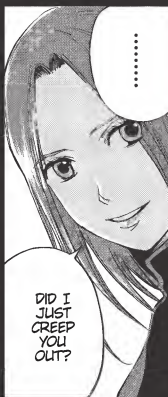
WHEN
I WAS A
CHILD,
I HATED
MYSELF.

SO I
LEARNED
HOW TO
BECOME
SOMEONE
DIFFERENT.



JOLT

MIAAAD



DID I
JUST
CREEP
YOU
OUT?



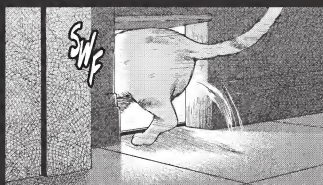


BIANCA.
HERE,
KITTY.



I LIKE
CATS,
THOUGH...

THEY AREN'T
INTERESTED
IN ME AT ALL,
SO THERE'S
NO NEED TO
TRY AND
DECEIVE
THEM.



YOU
HAVE A
CAT?

NO,
SHE'S
JUST A
STRAY
THAT LIVES
IN THE
AREA.



I'M NOT
CREEPED OUT
AT ALL,
Y'KNOW.



.....

NOW...
NOW I
FINALLY
UNDER-
STOOD.



I MEAN,
YOU'RE
STILL A
REALLY
INCREDIBLE
PERSON--
A
GENIUS...

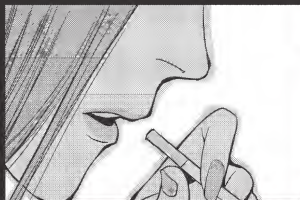
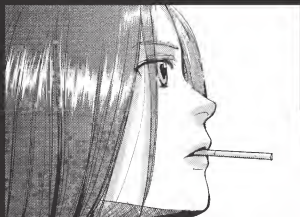


HELL,
I EVEN
LIKE YOU
BETTER!

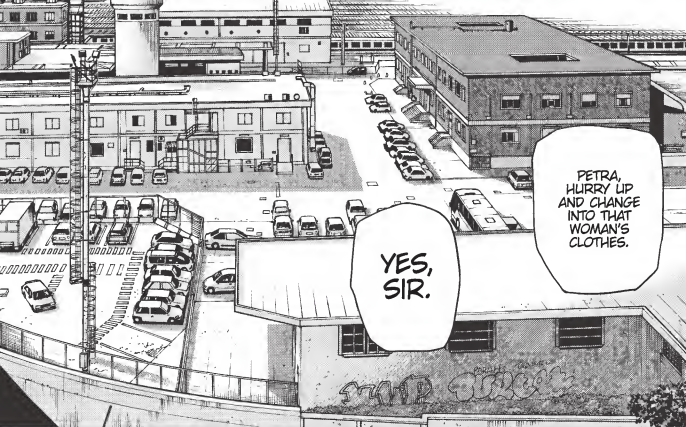
AND WHY
HER SMILE
ALWAYS
HAD TEARS
AROUND
THE EDGES
OF IT.

BUT NOW
I KNOW
YOU'VE GOT
PROBLEMS
AND
QUESTIONS
AND STUFF,
JUST LIKE
THE REST
OF US!

HOW ALONE
SHE WAS.
HOW
DESERTED...

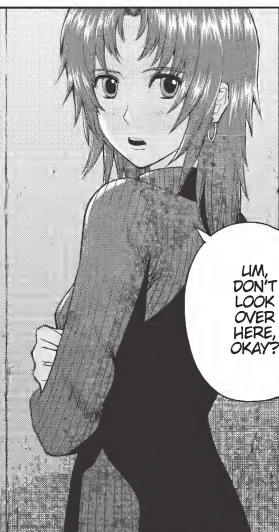






PETRA,
HURRY UP
AND CHANGE
INTO THAT
WOMAN'S
CLOTHES.

YES,
SIR.



UM,
DON'T
LOOK
OVER
HERE,
OKAY?



BE QUICK.
WE DON'T
HAVE
MUCH
TIME.



BUT
PEOPLE SAY
YOU'RE A
WOMANIZER...



PFFT!
IDIOT.

I'M NOT
GONNA
PEEK.



I'VE
ALREADY
SEEN
YOU
NAKED.



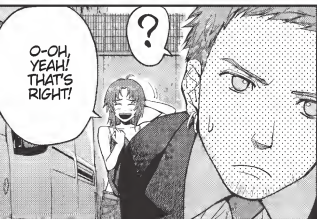
BESIDES
...



HEY,
I LIKE
WOMEN
JUST AS
MUCH AS
ANY OTHER
GUY.
NO MORE,
NO LESS.



YOU
WERE
BUCK
NAKED
WHEN WE
FIRST MET,
Y'KNOW.



O-OH,
YEAH!
THAT'S
RIGHT!

?



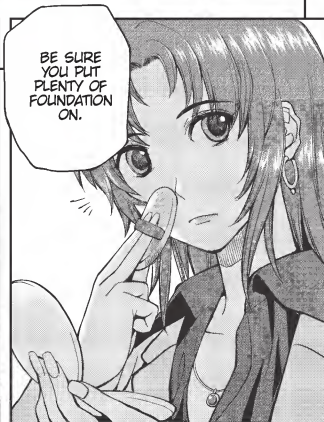
R-
REALLY?!
YOU
HAVE?!!

PIPE
DOWN,
WOULD
YOU?

JUST
HURRY
UP
AND
CHANGE.



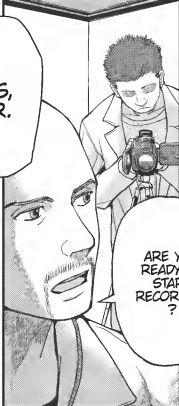
YOUR
COMPLEXION IS
WAY TOO PALE
IF YOU'RE
GOING TO PASS
YOURSELF
OFF AS
SOMEBODY
FROM
NAPLES.



BE SURE
YOU PUT
PLENTY OF
FOUNDATION
ON.



YES,
SIR.



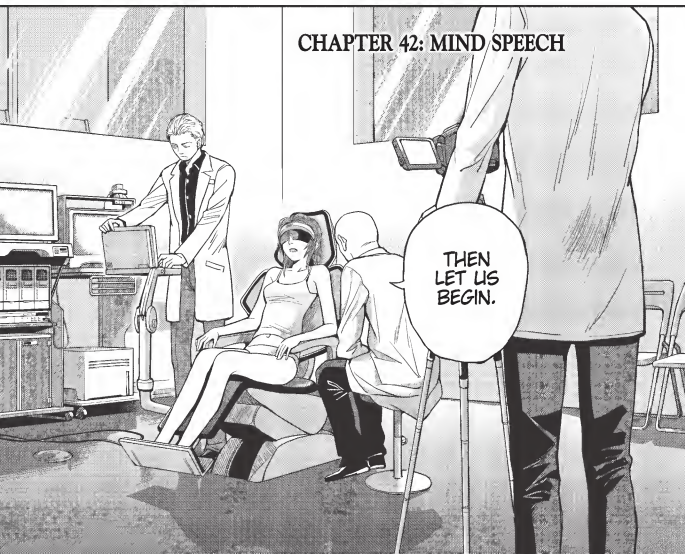
ARE YOU
READY TO
START
RECORDING
?



DR.
BELISARIO.

IT HAS
BEEN NINETY
SECONDS
SINCE
ADMINISTERING
THE DRUG.

CHAPTER 42: MIND SPEECH



THEN
LET US
BEGIN.

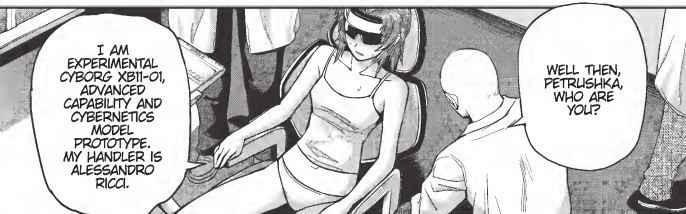


PETRUSHKA...

PE...

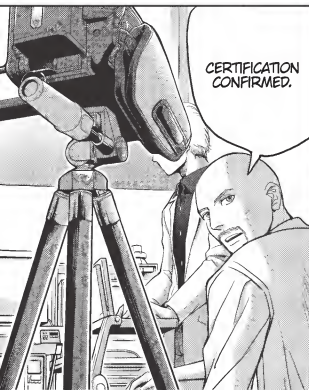


WHAT IS
YOUR
NAME?



I AM
EXPERIMENTAL
CYBORG XB11-01,
ADVANCED
CAPABILITY AND
CYBERNETICS
MODEL
PROTOTYPE.
MY HANDLER IS
ALESSANDRO
RICCI.

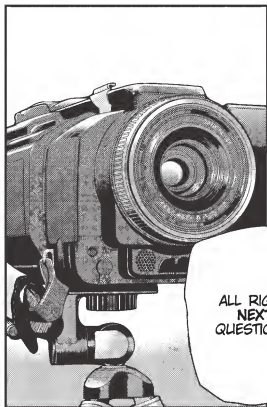
WELL THEN,
PETRUSHKA,
WHO ARE
YOU?



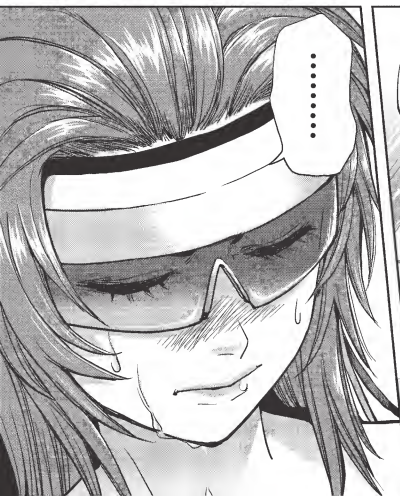
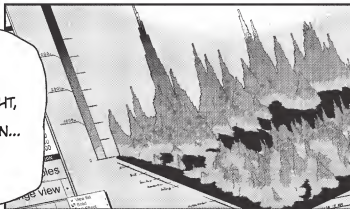
CERTIFICATION
CONFIRMED.



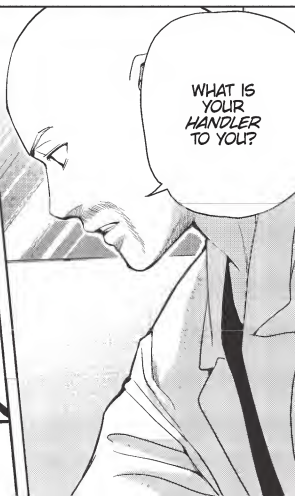
I PLEDGE MY
COMPLETE AND
UNWAVERING
LOYALTY TO
THE SOCIAL
WELFARE
AGENCY...



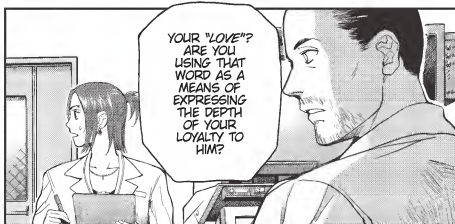
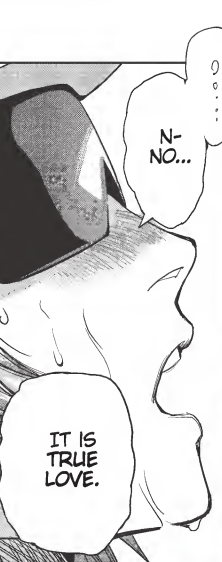
ALL RIGHT,
NEXT
QUESTION...



.....



WHAT IS
YOUR
HANDLER
TO YOU?

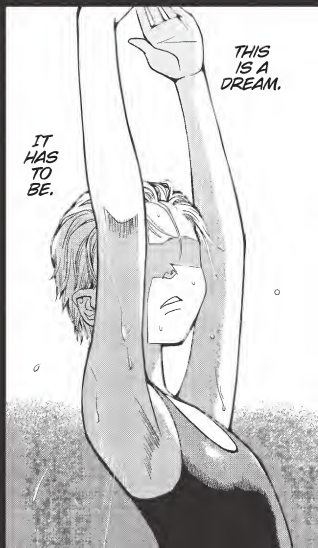




DANCING...



BECAUSE
I AM
NOT A
DANCER.



IT
HAS
TO
BE.

THIS
IS A
DREAM.



AND
I CAN
JUMP
MUCH
HIGHER
THAN
THAT...

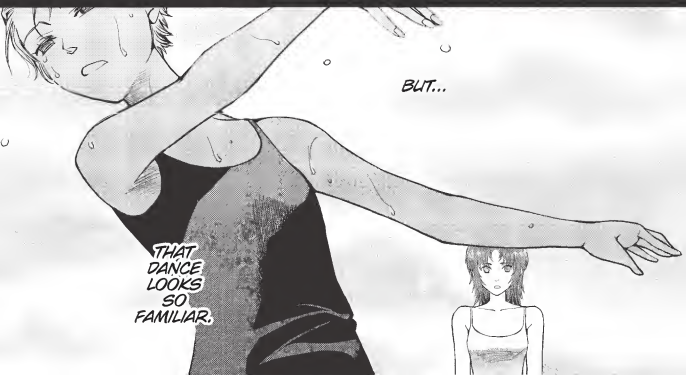


MY
LEGS
AREN'T
THAT
SHORT.



I
KNEW IT.
SHE
ISN'T
ME.

SEE?



BUT...

THAT
DANCE
LOOKS
SO
FAMILIAR.

PETRUSHKA

PETRUSHKA,
WAKE UP.

YOUR
EXAMINATION
IS
COMPLETE.



NO...
I
LOVE
HIM.



ARE YOU CERTAIN
YOU ARE NOT
SIMPLY MISTAKING
YOUR LOYALTY TO
YOUR HANDLER
FOR THE
ROMANTIC
FEELINGS THAT A
WOMAN MAY HAVE
FOR A MAN?



DON'T YOU
THINK WE
SHOULD
"INTERVIEW"
BELISARIO?



WHAT A
SURPRISE.

THAT
CYBORG IS
HONESTLY
IN LOVE.

*See Gunslinger Girl chapters 4 & 5.



YEAH,
AND IT'S
GIVING ME A
REALLY BAD
FEELING.
FLASHBACKS
TO ELSA
DE SICA*,
ANYBODY?



EITHER
WAY,
IT'S STILL
GOING TO
END IN
TRAGEDY.

A
CYBORG,
IN LOVE.
GOD...



I DOUBT
THAT
PETRUSHKA
WILL
FOLLOW A
SIMILAR
TRAJECTORY.

ELSA DE SICA
DEVELOPED
THE WAY SHE
DID BECAUSE
HER FEELINGS
WERE FORCED,
SO TO SPEAK,
ON HER.

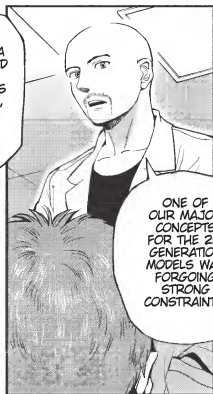


I WOULD
LIKE TO SEE
HOW THIS
SCENARIO
UNFOLDS.

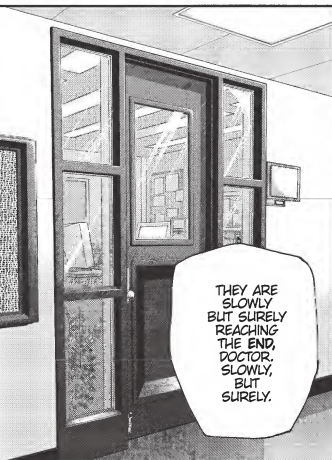
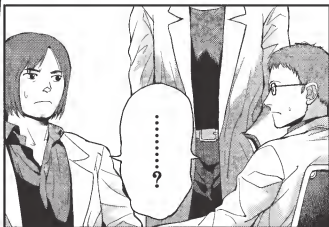


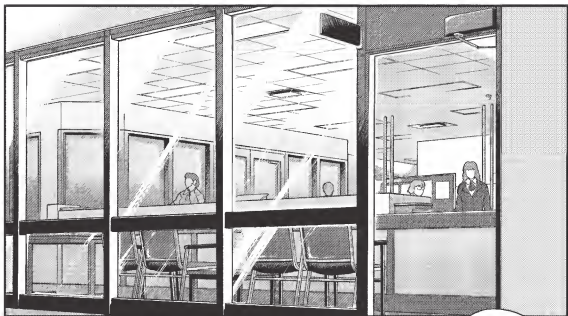
IF PETRUSHKA
HAS DEVELOPED
FEELINGS OF
LOVE TOWARDS
HER HANDLER,
THERE IS
NOTHING WE
CAN DO.

BESIDES...



ONE OF
OUR MAJOR
CONCEPTS
FOR THE 2ND
GENERATION
MODELS WAS
FORGOING
STRONG
CONSTRAINTS.







SOMETHING
ABOUT
WHY I
LOVE MY
HANDLER...



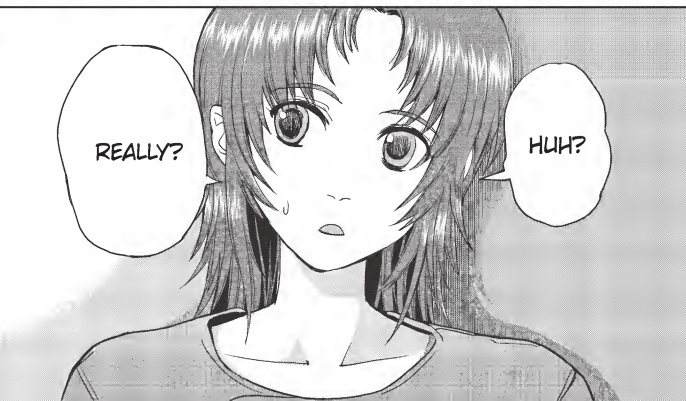
HEE HEE!
NOW, THAT'S
A FUNNY
DREAM!
I MEAN, ALL
OF US KNOW
THERE ISN'T
ANY "WHY."

WE
JUST
DO.



I DON'T
REMEMBER
MUCH,
BUT I WANNA
SAY THERE
WAS ONE
ABOUT
THIS GUY
ASKING ME
QUESTIONS.

OH,
SO I WAS
JUST
DREAMING
THEN,
HUH?



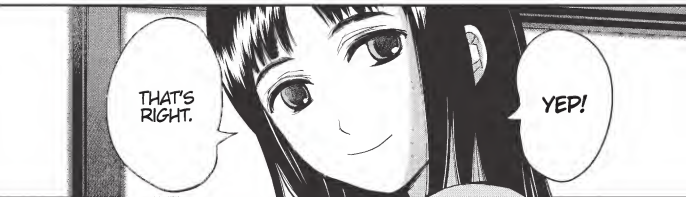
REALLY?

HUH?



WE ALL
LOVE OUR
HANDLERS
STRAIGHT
FROM THE
BEGINNING,
RIGHT?

YEAH!
HEY,
ANGELICA?



THAT'S
RIGHT.

YEP!

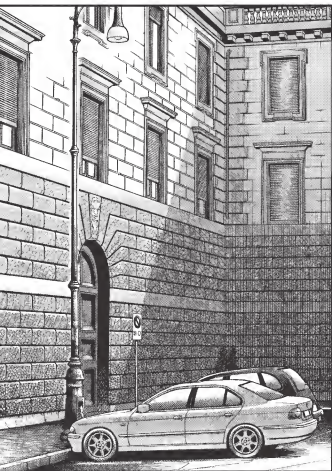


I MEAN, YOU
CAN'T JUST
AUTOMATICALLY
"LOVE" HIM...
THAT'S WEIRD!
YOU FALL IN
LOVE WITH
HIM FOR A
REASON.

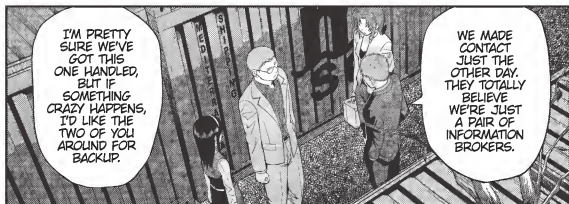


YOU
CAN'T BE
SERIOUS!

???









BESIDES,
THE TARGET
IS A WOMAN,
AND SHE
OBVIOUSLY
HAS THE
HOTS FOR
ME...



HEY,
WE AREN'T
GOING INTO
THIS ONE
FISTS
FLYING.

IT'S JUST
SOME
NEGOTIA-
TIONS,
THAT'S
ALL.



HMPH.

IT'LL BE A
CAKEWALK.



I GUESS HAVING
A PLAYBOY LIKE
YOU AROUND
CAN GREASE THE
WHEELS OF
EVEN SOME OF
SECTION 2'S
MISSIONS.

.....



YES?

HEY,
PETRA.



BUT STILL!
SIGNORE HAD
NO RIGHT
TO TALK
LIKE THAT
TO YOU!



BUT IT'S
STILL
ACTING!
AND ALL
FOR THE
SAKE OF
THE JOB,
TOO!

I MEAN,
YOU'RE JUST
ACTING THE
PART OF A
PLAYBOY.
ELEGANTLY
AND
PERFECTLY,
YES...



DON'T GO
PULLING YOUR
GUN OUT
WHEN YOU'RE
PISSED,
UNDERSTAND?

YES,
SIR...



YOU
ACTUALLY
DO GET
IT.

WELL,
WILL
WONDERS
NEVER
CEASE...



THEN WHY
ARE YOU ON
MY CASE
ABOUT IT
ALL THE TIME,
HM?



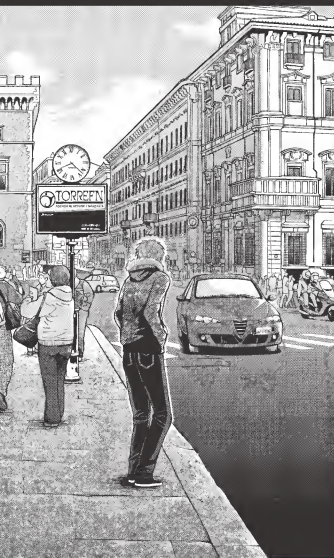
OF
COURSE
I DO!



UM...
B-
BECAUSE...



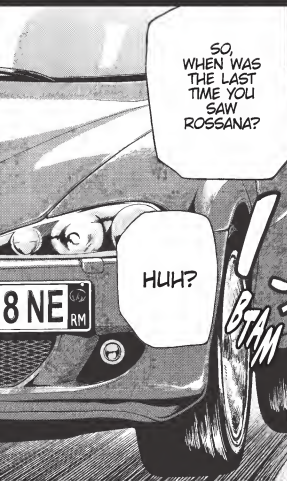
BECAUSE
THAT'S JUST
THE WAY A
WOMAN'S
HEART
WORKS,
THAT'S
WHY!





MORNIN',
CHIEF.

ALESSANDRO.
GET IN.



SO,
WHEN WAS THE LAST
TIME YOU
SAW
ROSSANA?

HUH?



MORNINGS
ARE
AWFULLY
COLD,
THESE
DAYS.

YA GOT
THAT
RIGHT.



HUH...?
WHAT'S
THAT
SUPPOSED
TO MEAN?



I DUNNO...
LAST
FRIDAY?
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT.

I MEAN,
HOW WAS
"MACHINA"
DOING.



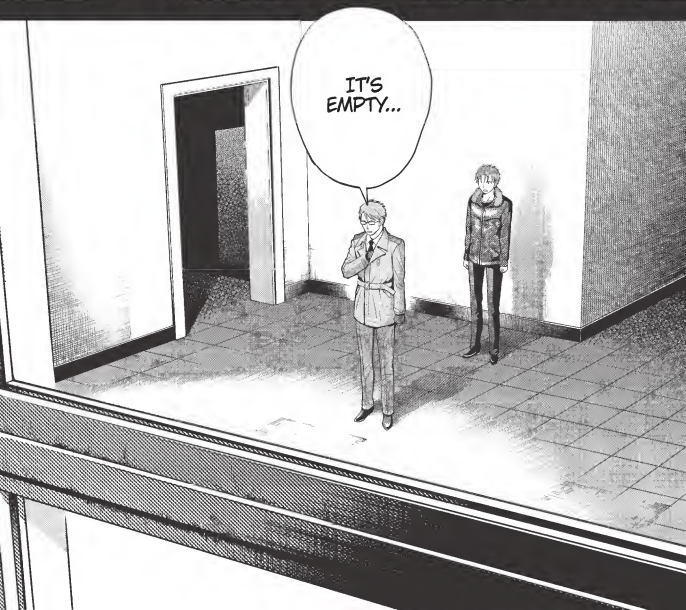
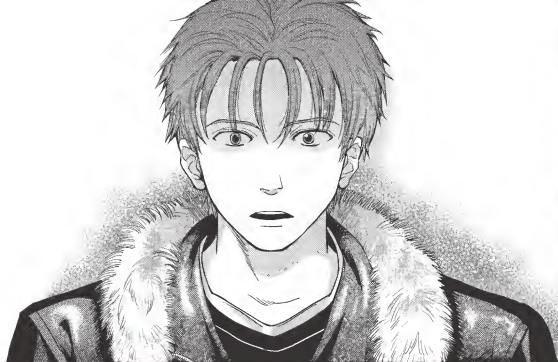
WHAT
WAS
SHE
LIKE?



MACHINA
DOESN'T
KNOW
WHAT IT
MEANS TO
BE TIRED.



SAME AS
ALWAYS,
I GUESS.
KEEPING UP
WITH HER
IS HARD
AS HELL.









NOT
LIKE
WHAT?



NO, NO,
NO!
NOT LIKE
THAT!



WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH
THAT?



PEOPLE
WITH GOOD
AND
GRACEFUL
POSTURE
ATTRACT
ATTENTION TO
THEMSELVES.



AND
YOU'RE
ALREADY
TOO
PRETTY
BY HALF
AS IT IS...



YOUR
POSTURE.
IT IS
TOTALLY
TOO
GOOD.



GOD,
YOUR
CENTER OF
GRAVITY
IS SO
WEIRDLY
HIGH,
TOO...



H/N. I'M
SURPRISED
YOU STILL
MAKE USE
OF THIS
ROOM.



Nox
Nox
I'M
COMING
IN.



THOUGH
IT IS
CERTAINLY
FAR MORE...
BARE
THAN IT
USED TO
BE.

BEFORE,
IT LOOKED
LIKE A
DRESSING
ROOM
STRAIGHT
OUT OF
SOME
CIRCUS.



CHIEF...



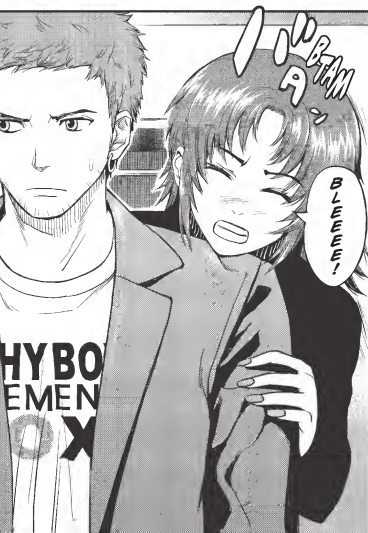
DO YOU
HAVE SOME
KIND OF
BUSINESS
WITH ME,
OR
WHAT?



SO,
IS THIS
YOUR
NEW
STUDENT
?



YOU
REALLY
CAN'T HELP
YOURSELF,
CAN YOU?

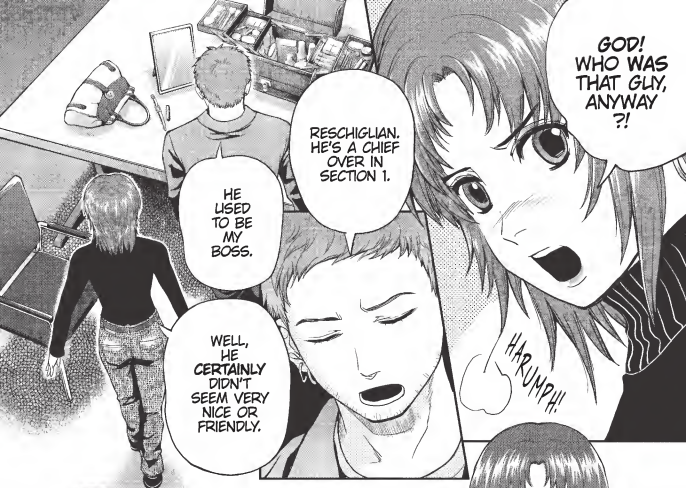


B L E E E E !



I DO.
WE
NEED TO
TALK.

COME TO
MY OFFICE
AS SOON
AS YOU
HAVE A
MINUTE.



GOD!
WHO WAS
THAT GUY,
ANYWAY
?!

RESCHIGLIAN.
HE'S A CHIEF
OVER IN
SECTION 1.

HE
USED
TO BE
MY
BOSS.

WELL,
HE
CERTAINLY
DIDN'T
SEEM VERY
NICE OR
FRIENDLY.

HARUMPH!



YOU
PUNCHED
YOUR
BOSS?!
THAT'S SO
COOL!!

MORE
LIKE
DUMB.
I WAS AN
IDIOT KID,
BACK
THEN.



YEAH, HE
WOULDN'T.
NOT AFTER
I DECKED
HIM THAT
ONE TIME.





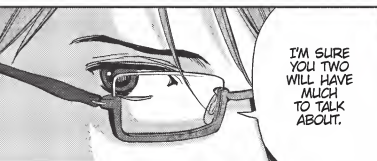
YOU
KNOW
WHERE
SHE
IS?!

YES.
IN A SMALL
VILLAGE
NEAR
SIENNA.



YOU
WILL BE
COMING
WITH
ME.

BUT ENOUGH
PLEASANTRIES.
TOMORROW,
I AM GOING
TO VISIT
ROSSANA.



I'M SURE
YOU TWO
WILL HAVE
MUCH
TO TALK
ABOUT.



SO...
YOU'RE
GOING TO
GO BRING
IN THE
TRAITOR
AFTER ALL
THIS TIME,
HUH?



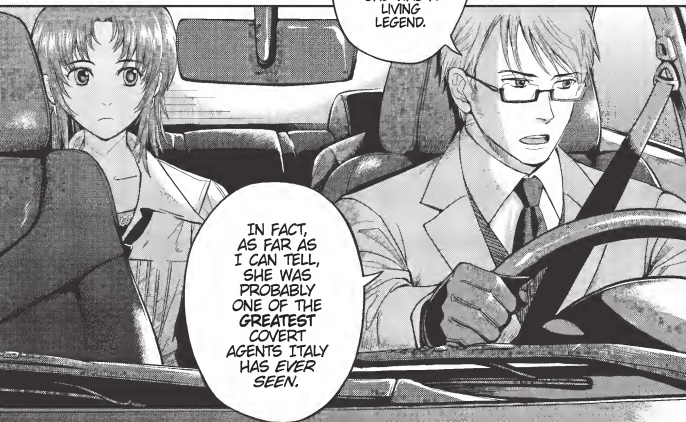
I'VE ALREADY
GOTTEN THE
PERMISSIONS
I NEED FROM
SECTION 2.

THIS
IS AN
OFFICIAL
ORDER.

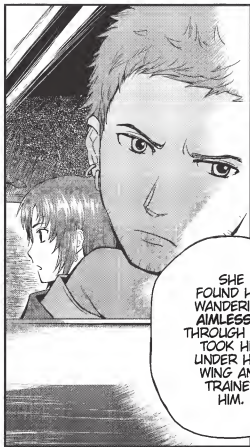


SIR?
WHAT KIND
OF LADY
IS THIS
ROSSANA
PERSON?

ONE OF
PUBLIC
SAFETY'S
SPIES.
SHE WAS
SO GOOD,
SHE WAS A
LIVING
LEGEND.



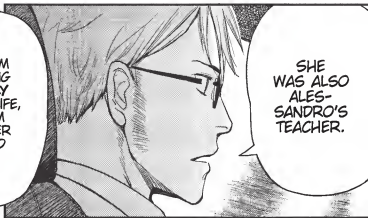
IN FACT,
AS FAR AS
I CAN TELL,
SHE WAS
PROBABLY
ONE OF THE
GREATEST
COVERT
AGENTS ITALY
HAS EVER
SEEN.



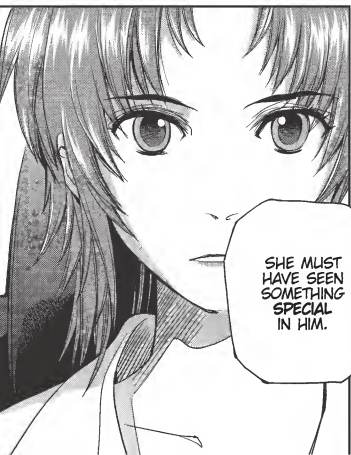
*HMPH!
NOW, THAT
CAN'T BE
RIGHT.
SIGNORIO
SANDRO
IS THE
BEST!!*



SHE
FOUND HIM
WANDERING
AIMLESSLY
THROUGH LIFE,
TOOK HIM
UNDER HER
WING AND
TRAINED
HIM.



SHE
WAS ALSO
ALES-
SANDRO'S
TEACHER.

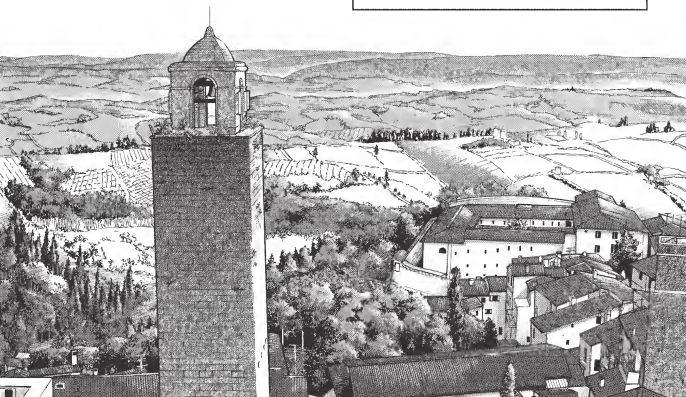


SHE MUST
HAVE SEEN
SOMETHING
SPECIAL
IN HIM.



IT QUITE
SURPRISED ME,
TO BE HONEST.
SHE'D NEVER
SHOWN
INTEREST IN
TEACHING
ANYONE
BEFORE.

SIENNA PROVINCE, TUSCANY REGION





THE
COUNTRY-
SIDE IS
A GOOD,
HEALTHY
PLACE.

IT
BRINGS
PEACE
TO THE
HEART.



REALLY,
NOW.
YOU HAVE
MATURED
FAR LESS
THAN I
THOUGHT.



THERE IS
MORE TO LIFE
THAN LIVING IN
THE FAST LANE,
WEARING
PRICEY SUITS,
AND CHASING
DOWN THE
ENEMY,
YOU KNOW.



H/V. FROM
WHERE I'M
STANDING,
THERE'S SO
MUCH NOTHING
GOING ON,
IT'S FREAKIN'
BORING ME
TO DEATH.

IT'S THE
PICTURE OF
STAGNATION.



THEN
CAN YOU
TRULY
SAY
YOU--



I
JUST
DON'T
FEEL
IT.

HEY,
I NEVER
SAID I
DIDN'T
GET IT.
I UNDER-
STAND THE
LOGIC.

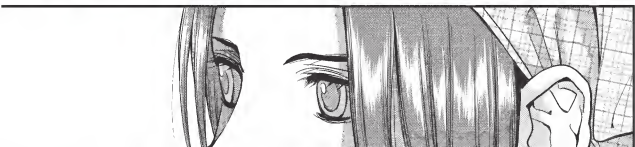
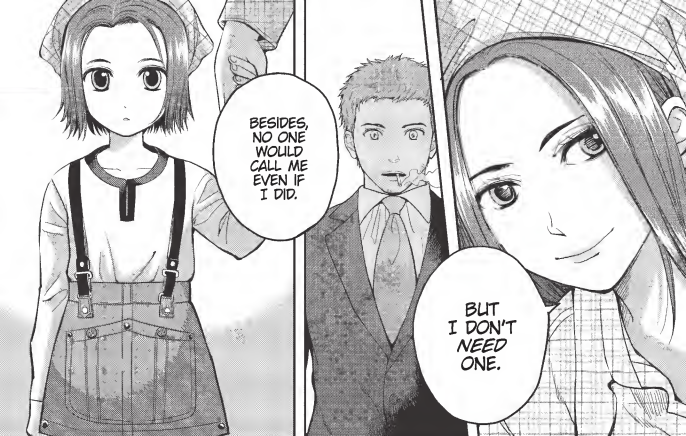


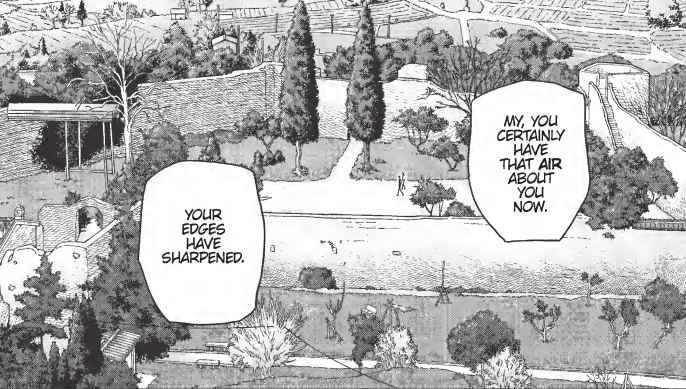
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING
HERE?
WHY THE
SUDDEN
VISIT?

I WOULD
HAVE GIVEN
YOU WARNING,
IF I COULD.
HOWEVER,
I AM NOT THE
ONE WHO
DOESN'T
OWN A CELL
PHONE.



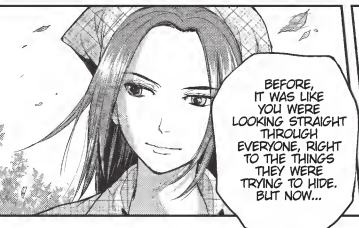
RES-
CHIGLIAN
...





YOUR
EDGES
HAVE
SHARPENED.

MY, YOU
CERTAINLY
HAVE
THAT AIR
ABOUT
YOU
NOW.



BEFORE,
IT WAS LIKE
YOU WERE
LOOKING STRAIGHT
THROUGH
EVERYONE, RIGHT
TO THE THINGS
THEY WERE
TRYING TO HIDE.
BUT NOW...



WELL,
YOURS
ARE
GONE.



I
THOUGHT
SO,
AT FIRST.
BUT I
DON'T FEEL
LIKE DOING
EVEN THAT
NOW.



SO,
YOU CAME
TO RANT
AT ME,
THEN?



BIANCA!

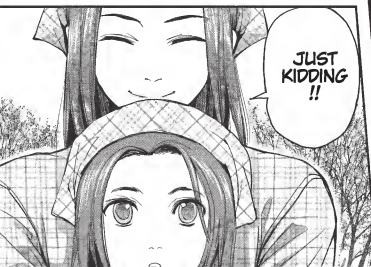


IS SHE...
YOURS?

YES.



Pino!



JUST
KIDDING
!!



Papa!

HERE,
DARLING.
SAY "HI"
TO YOUR PAPA.



ROSSANA'S
JOB OFTEN
REQUIRED THAT
SHE SLEEP WITH
THE MEN SHE
WAS SPYING ON,
IN ORDER TO GET
CLOSE ENOUGH
TO THEM.

BIANCA WAS
CONCERNED
DURING ONE
OF THOSE
TIMES.



WAIT,
THEN...



YES.

HOW
CAN SHE
SMILE
LIKE
THAT?!

HER
DAD IS
ONE OF
YOUR OLD
MARKS
...?!

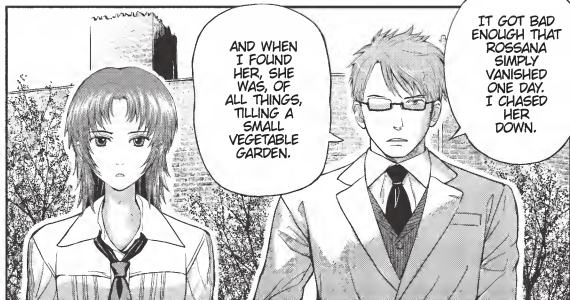


I BELIEVE
ROSSANA
HAD
GROWN
WEARY OF THE
JOB.

THE GREAT
TALENTS OF
THE WORLD
TEND TO
BE VERY
LONELY
PEOPLE.



COULDN'T
SHE HAVE
CHOSEN TO,
UM...
YOU KNOW...
NOT HAVE
THE CHILD
AT ALL?



AND WHEN
I FOUND
HER, SHE
WAS, OF
ALL THINGS,
TILLING A
SMALL
VEGETABLE
GARDEN.

IT GOT BAD
ENOUGH THAT
ROSSANA
SIMPLY
VANISHED
ONE DAY.
I CHASED
HER
DOWN.

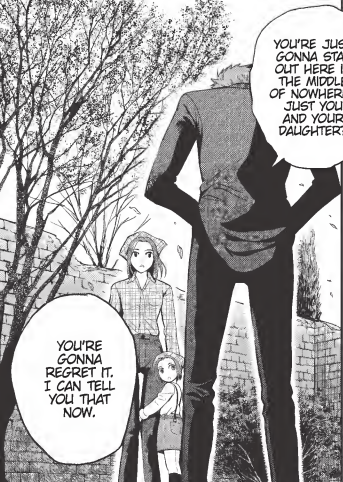


I WAS
RIGHT
THERE
WITH YOU...
THE
WHOLE
TIME!!



WHY
?!

HOW
COULD
YOU
STILL
FEEL
SO
ALONE
?!



YOU'RE JUST
GONNA STAY
OUT HERE IN
THE MIDDLE
OF NOWHERE?
JUST YOU
AND YOUR
DAUGHTER?

YOU'RE
GONNA
REGRET IT.
I CAN TELL
YOU THAT
NOW.

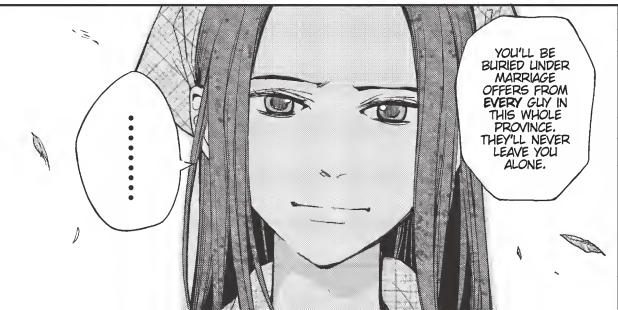


ALESSANDRO.
SANDRO.
I'M SORRY.

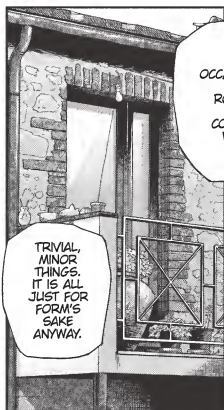


IT'S
ALREADY
OBVIOUS
THAT SHE'S
GONNA BE
DROP-DEAD
GORGEOUS.

I MEAN,
JUST YOU
WAIT UNTIL
YOUR GIRL
GROWS
UP...

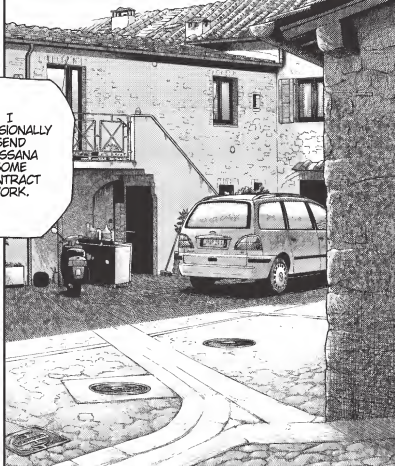


YOU'LL BE
BURIED UNDER
MARRIAGE
OFFERS FROM
EVERY GUY IN
THIS WHOLE
PROVINCE.
THEY'LL NEVER
LEAVE YOU
ALONE.



TRIVIAL,
MINOR
THINGS.
IT IS ALL
JUST FOR
FORM'S
SAKE
ANYWAY.

I
OCCASIONALLY
SEND
ROSSANA
SOME
CONTRACT
WORK.



DON'T TELL
ME YOU
CAME ALL
THE WAY
OUT HERE
JUST TO
GET ME TO
SEE HER.

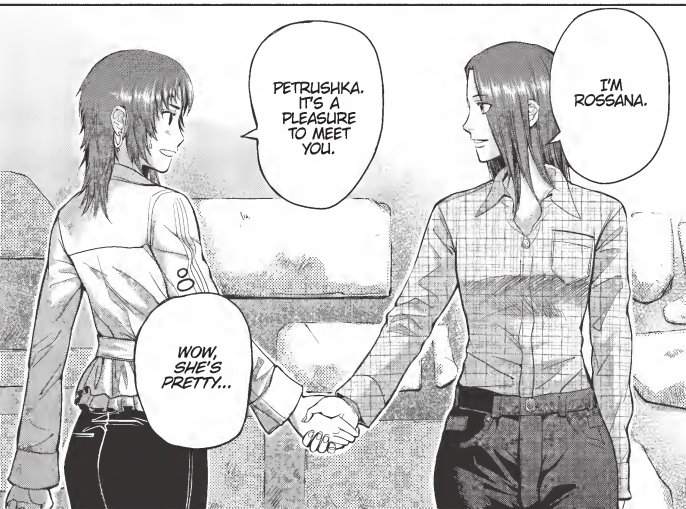
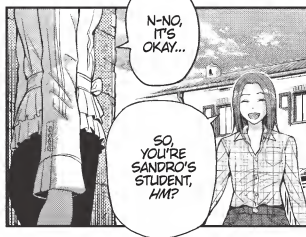


THERE'S
MORE
GOING ON.
I CAN
FEEL IT.



THE ONLY
ONES WHO
KNOW ABOUT
THIS ARE
MYSELF,
THE DIVISION
CHIEF, AND A
HANDFUL OF
OTHERS.









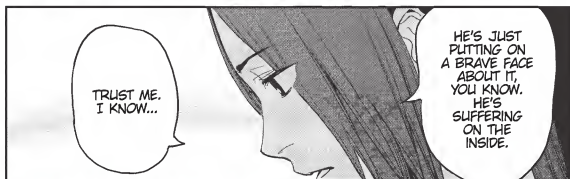
HOW IS SANDRO?
IS HE DOING WELL?

YES,
MA'AM.



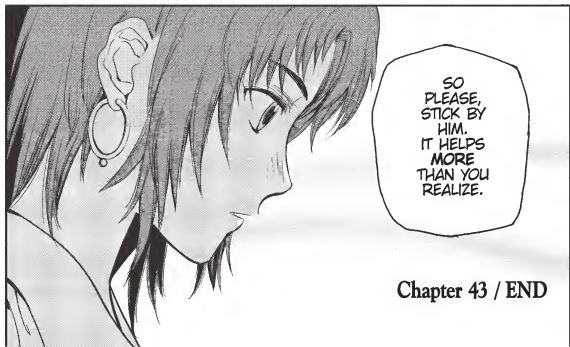
WELL,
I GUESS
I GOT IT
WRONG,
DIDN'T
I?

MY
INSTINCTS
MUST BE
GETTING
RUSTY.



TRUST ME,
I KNOW...

HE'S JUST
PUTTING ON
A BRAVE FACE
ABOUT IT,
YOU KNOW.
HE'S
SUFFERING
ON THE
INSIDE.



SO
PLEASE,
STICK BY
HIM.
IT HELPS
MORE
THAN YOU
REALIZE.

CHAPTER 44: LADY ROSSO (5)





THAT
CAR UP
THERE.
DO YOU
SEE IT?



ALLES-
SANDRO!



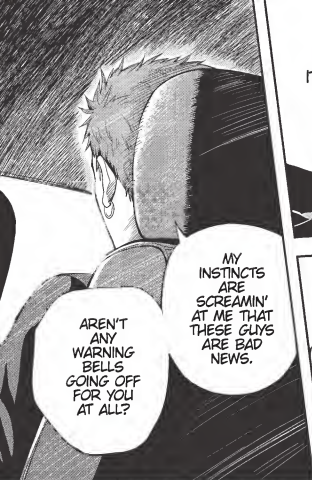
NOT
SOMETHING
THE PEOPLE
AROUND
HERE
DRIVE.

YEAH.
A BMW
X5.



YES,
SIR!

PETRA,
YOU
READY
TO GO
BACK
THERE?



ANY
CHANCE
IT'S JUST
A TOUR
GUIDE'S
CAR?

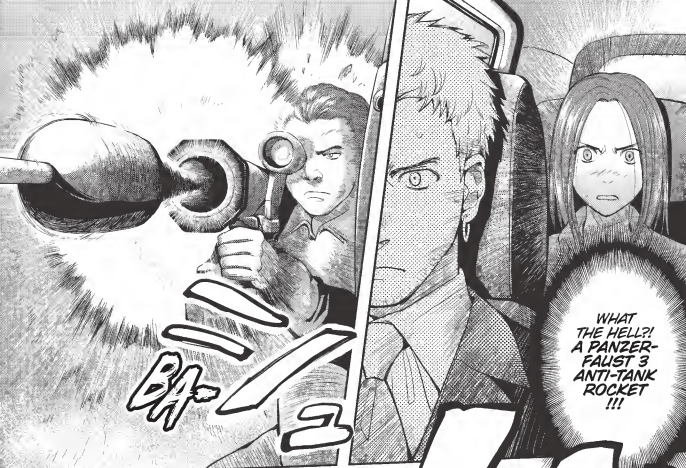
MY
INSTINCTS
ARE
SCREAMIN'
AT ME THAT
THESE GUYS
ARE BAD
NEWS.



THE TOUR
GUIDES
HERE DRIVE
MERCEDES!

DO WE
HAVE
ANY
KIND OF
PROOF
?!





WHAT
THE HELL?!
A PANZER-
FAUST 3
ANTI-TANK
ROCKET
!!!



WOOSH!!





THEY
SHOT AT
SIGNORIO
SANDRO!!

FOOM

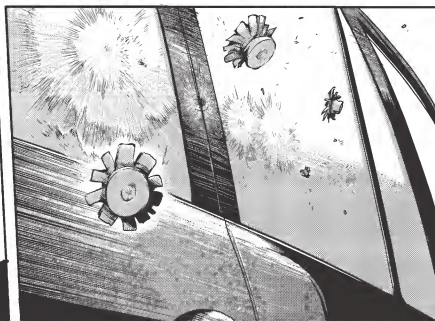
BOOOOOOM

!!

KYAA!



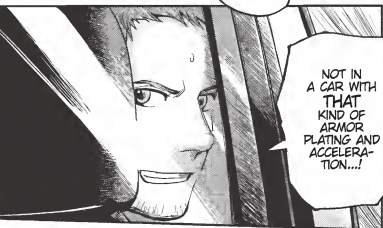
THEY'RE
GONNA
PAY
FOR
THAT!!!





ALES-
SANDRO!
WHO
ARE WE
FACING?!

REDS
?!



NOT IN
A CAR WITH
THAT
KIND OF
ARMOR
PLATING AND
ACCELE-
RATION....!

*Carbon-Fiber Reinforced Polymer



THAT
THING'S
GOT CFRP*
SHIELDING!
THE KIND
WE
DEVELOPED
!!

WHAT
?!





ALES-
SANDRO
!!



GUESS
THEY WERE
HAVIN' A
PROBLEM
WITH SOME
OF THE
AGENCY'S
"SIDE
PROJECTS"!

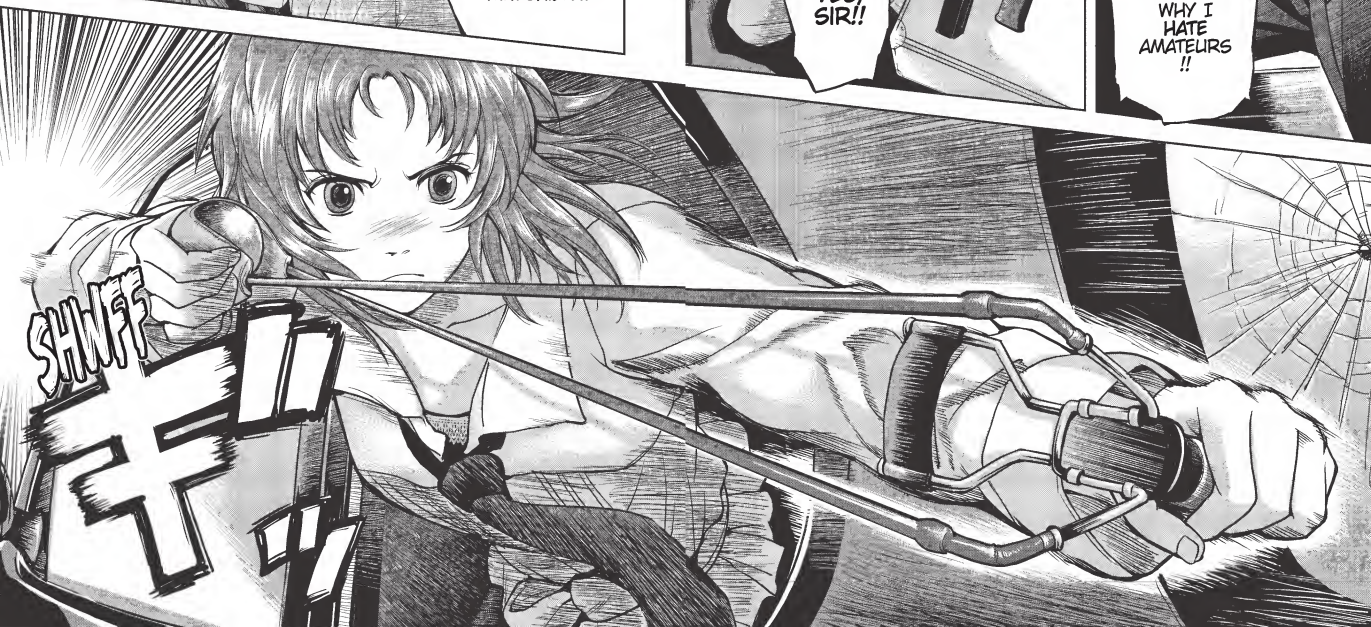
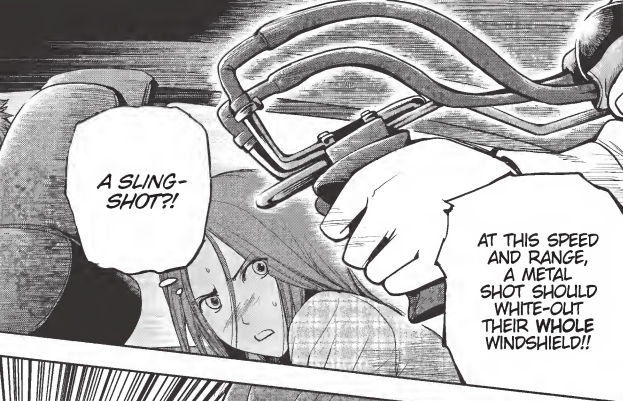
THAT MEANS
WE AREN'T
FACING REDS
OR BLUES!
IT'S THE
WHITES*
THAT ARE
TRYING TO
KILL US!!

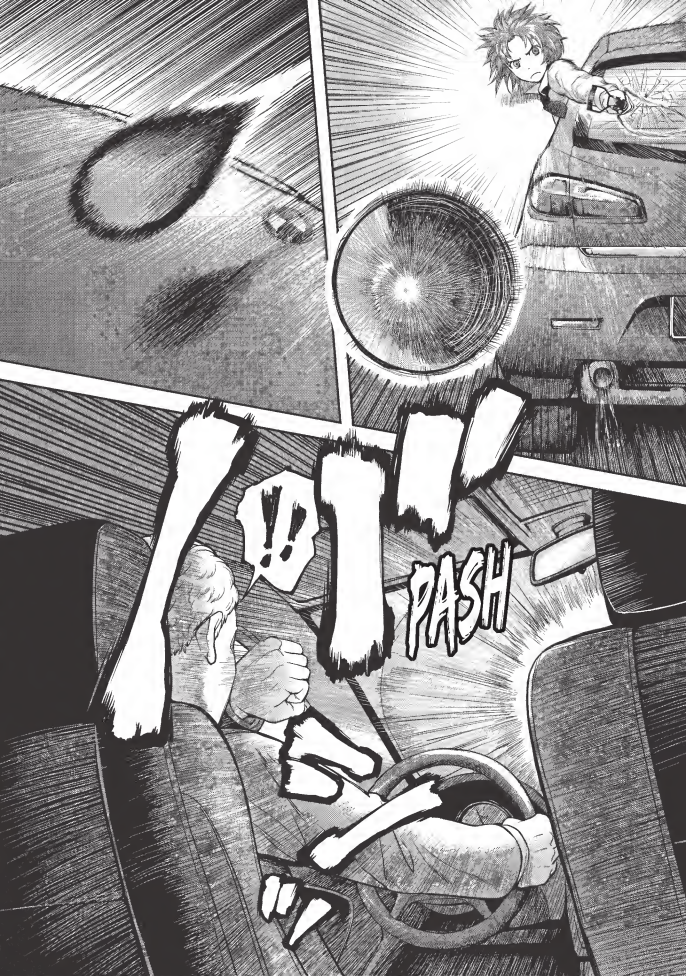
*Reds = radical left; Blues = radical right; Whites = the government.

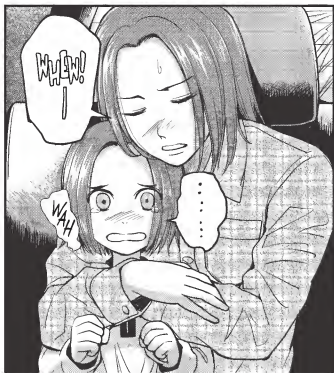
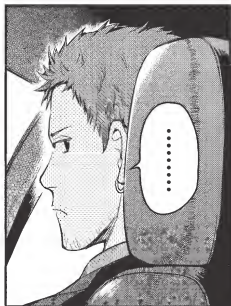
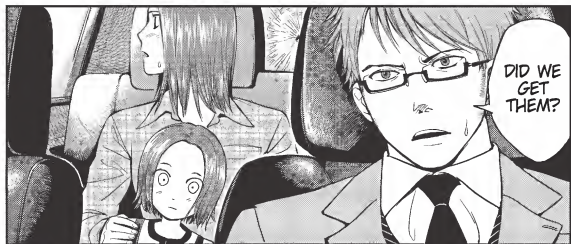


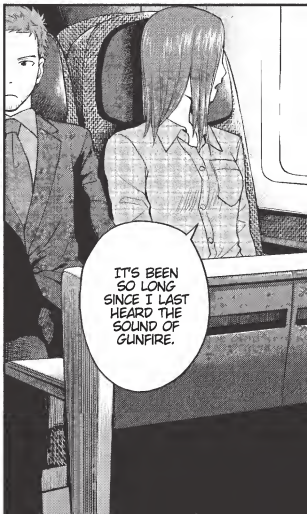
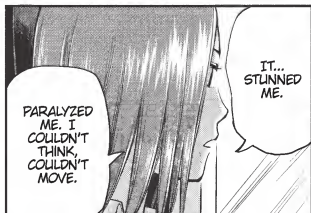
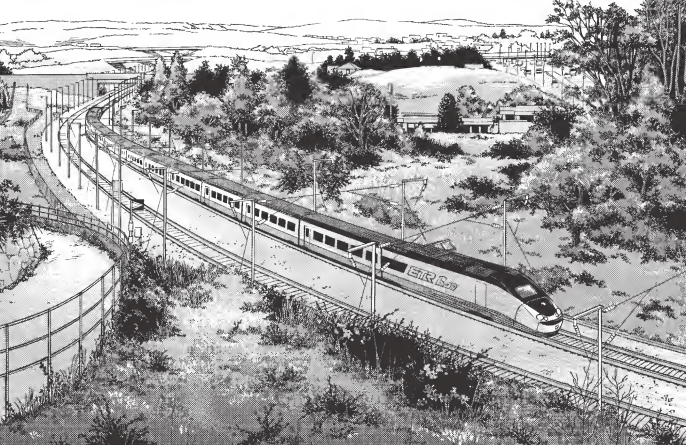
DO
SOME-
THING
!!!

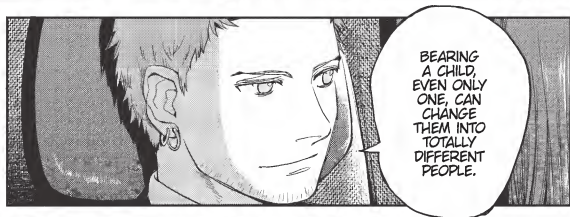


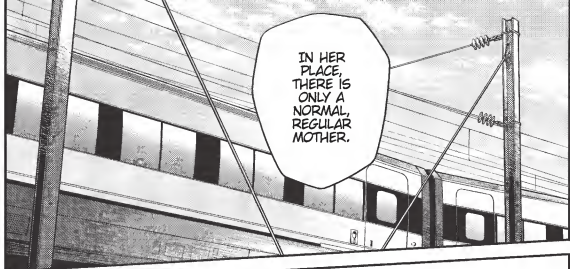








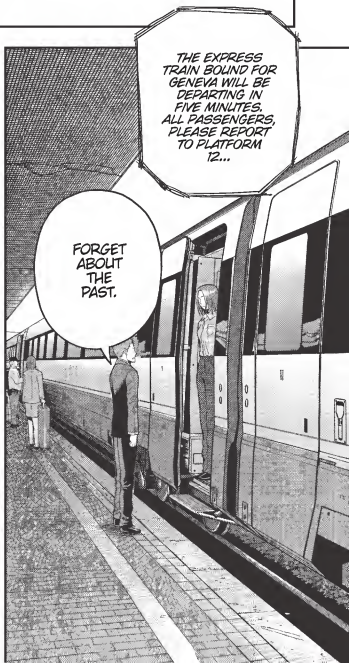




IN HER
PLACE,
THERE IS
ONLY A
NORMAL,
REGULAR
MOTHER.

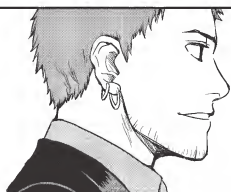
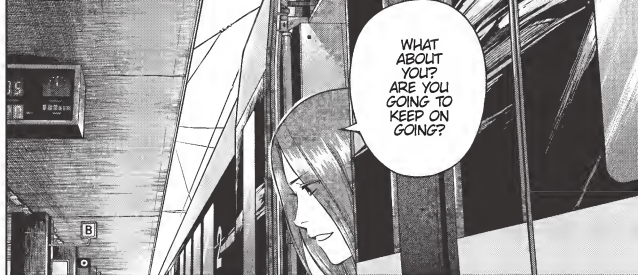


JUST
FORGET
ABOUT IT.
IT'S
FOR THE
BEST.

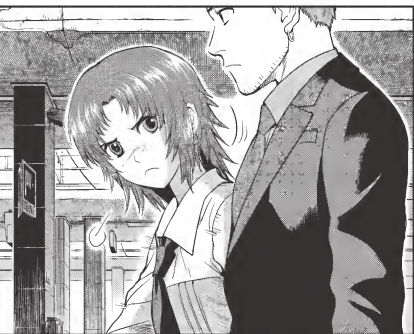


THE EXPRESS
TRAIN BOUND FOR
GENEVA WILL BE
DEPARTING IN
FIVE MINUTES.
ALL PASSENGERS,
PLEASE REPORT
TO PLATFORM
12...

FORGET
ABOUT
THE
PAST.







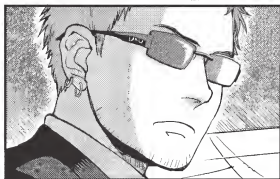
IT'S NOT
AS EASY
AS IT
SOUNDS.



SHUT
IT.



WHY
DON'T WE
FORGET
ABOUT
THE PAST,
TOO!









DO YOU
THINK
YOU CAN
UNDER-
STAND?



IT WAS
ROSSANA
WHO
STARTED
THE
WHOLE
IDEA.



THOUGHT
YOU'D
SAY
THAT.



YOU'RE STILL
JUST A KID,
THOUGH.
ALMOST AN
INFANT.
WHAT THE
HELL COULD
YOU EVER
REALLY
UNDERSTAND?



I
KNOW
I
CAN.



YOU'RE
ALL COLD
AND
ALONE
ON THE
INSIDE...

THAT YOU
WANT
SOMEBODY
TO UNDER-
STAND YOU,
SIGNORIO
SANDRO.
BADLY.



SO YOU SHOVE
EVERYBODY AWAY,
HOLD YOURSELF AT
A SAFE DISTANCE,
AND THEN LIE TO
YOURSELF THAT
YOU'RE OKAY
WITH BEING JUST
AN OUTSIDE
OBSERVER OF
EVERYTHING!

BUT YOU'RE
AFRAID OF
BEING
BETRAYED.
TERRIFIED
OF IT.





AND BECAUSE
YOU'RE A
FRIGGIN'
MACHINE,
IT ALL LOOKS
EASY TO YOU!
BLACK OR
WHITE,
ON OR OFF!

SHUT UP!
YOU DON'T HAVE
THE RIGHT
TO TALK TO ME
LIKE THAT!
YOU'RE A BABY
WITH BARELY
SIX MONTHS
OF MEMORIES
TO WORK
WITH!



BECAUSE
I LOVE
YOU!!



HOW
DO YOU,
ALL OF A
SUDDEN,
KNOW SO
MUCH THAT
YOU'RE
SURE OF
IT?!

WHAT
MAKES
YOU SO
DAMN
CONFIDENT
YOU'VE
GOT ME
PEGGED,
HUH?!



**NO,
IT'S
NOT
THAT!!**

**AND HELL
IF I'M GONNA
BE PITIED
BY SOME
ROBOT JUST
FOLLOWING
ITS PRO-
GRAMMING!!**

**THAT'S
JUST THE
"CONDITIONING"!**



**YOU THINK
THIS ISN'T
JUST YOUR
BRAIN-
WASHING
TALKING?
REALLY?**

**OH,
IT
ISN'T,
HUH?!**



**THEN
PROVE
IT!!**





Non capisci un cazzo!!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND
A FUCKING THING!!

Pezzo di merda
Alessandro !!
ALESSANDRO, YOU NO-GOOD,
WORTHLESS PIECE OF SHIT!!



WHY
CAN'T
YOU
SEE
HOW
MUCH...

WHY
DON'T
YOU
TRUST
ME?!

OH GOD,
IT
HURTS!

I'M
GONNA
THROW
UP!

HOW
MUCH I
LOVE
YOU.....!!!



GOD...
WHEN DID
SHE GET
THIS...
THIS
STRAIGHT-
FORWARD
AND
FRANK?



I...
I HAVE TO
HOLD IT IN.
I CAN'T
THROW UP
OR HE WON'T
BELIEVE
ME!!

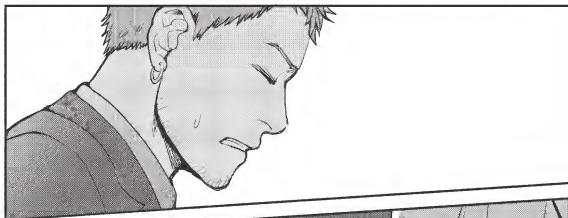
HAAH...

HAAH...



AND...

WHEN
DID I GET
THIS...
WARPED
...?



ENOUGH...
PETRA,
STOP.
DON'T
FORCE
IT.





ROMA #38,39,40

CAPRI #41

NAPOLI #42

SIENA #43,44

"HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?"



"RIGHT NOW, I'M NOT NEARLY TALL ENOUGH
TO BE A GOOD SHIELD FOR HIM."

**GUNSLINGER GIRL
OMNIBUS COLLECTION 4**

"IT'S ANGELICA. SHE'D COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN
ALMOST ALL OF HER OLD MEMORIES...
BUT NOW THEY'RE STARTING TO COME BACK TO HER."

"I'VE ALWAYS HAD BAD LUCK..."

"Y'KNOW,
ANGIE'S BEEN REALLY CHEERFUL OF LATE."

"I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL THEY'RE A REALLY BAD SIGN..."

COMING SOON...

TRANSLATION NOTES

CHAPTER 38

In the ballet “Swan Lake,” Odile is the black swan, the temptress character who seeks to trick Prince Siegfried into breaking his vow to Odette, the white swan princess.

CHAPTER 41

A.S. Roma (**Associazione Sportiva Roma**) and S.S. Lazio (**Società Sportiva Lazio**) are rival football clubs both based out of Rome.

Rossana's cat meows in Italian: “miao”

CHAPTER 43

“Petruska” is a ballet by Russian composer Igor Stravinsky, composed in 1910-11. The story is about a traditional Russian puppet made of straw and sawdust who comes to life and develops emotions. Another of the central characters in the ballet is the Moor, another puppet who is handsome and lives a life of luxury. The Moor attempts to seduce the Ballerina (another puppet character), but is interrupted by Petruska. The Moor chases down Petruska, and eventually kills him. The puppets' master, the Charlatan reminds everyone at the end of the ballet that Petruska was just a puppet, not even a real person.



AGENT 2.0

There is a secret counterterrorism unit for the Italian government known only as "The Social Welfare Agency." Its mission: to rescue troubled girls and turn them into heartless cyborg assassins using the latest advances in cyber-technology.

The newest inductee into the Agency is a second generation cyborg called Petrushka, who may be the Agency's most powerful operative yet. Petrushka is given a formidable trial-by-fire mission, together with her handler Alessandro, to foil an assassination attempt. Can she prove she's got what it takes in an impossible mission she may not even survive?

"Gunslinger Girl is a surprisingly dark but fascinating story with as much psychological drama as action. I strongly recommend it."

—MANIA.COM



OLDER TEEN (16+)

WWW.GOMANGA.COM

MANGA



Seven Seas